Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Activities, Reactions Relating to TV Marti

More on GRANMA Editorial

FL2903174990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1448 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] To the right of the famous [words indistinct], acting in the best piracy tradition that hit the Caribbean, the United States sought cover in the darkness, unavoidable partner of criminals, to carry out its misdeed. The anti-Cuban television transmissions began operating against the most elementary common sense. This is how the first paragraph of an editorial entitled "An Electronic Giron" published by GRANMA, in its front page today, reads.

It says that the U.S. arrogance was humbled once more as it happened to Goliath, who was stoned by the biblical David. Not even an almost fictional technology, nothing has been too much for the ingenuity and creativity of native technicians.

Once again, the Cuban response was self-contained not only by moderation accompanied by a responsible political leadership but because it has not been necessary to use each one of the contingency options left for now which will be used at the appropriate time.

GRANMA says, the question everyone is asking over here and nobody responds to over there is, why does the United States expose itself to ridicule in an area such as communications technology in which its superiority over any Third World country should be obvious? It is yet to be seen how long the Bush government will allocate public funds to be wasted in such an irrational manner.

In its final part, the GRANMA editorial notes that from now on the United States is the one who has to prove where and how far it wants to go and what price it is willing to pay for its electronic adventure. It is known that they are the powerful and opulent ones, the ones who have more satellites, equipment, and millions than anyone else and can even find formulas that would be a more difficult challenge for us. What is evident today is that they were initially, literally beaten up. The final hour could still be far.

Our men and women do not live off the passing success, the ephemeral triumph, or sit down to contemplate the view after the battle but the initial days have definitely made history and nobody can take this away from us. The attempt of imposing on us a virtual Platt Amendment in the skies is already an electronic Giron 72 hours later, concludes GRANMA.

Brig. Gen. Galvez Comments

FL2903185790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Remarks by Brigade General William Galvez; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Evidently, the U.S. Government, the most monstrous representative of imperialism in the world, has apparently decided to operate the tele-aggression dishonoring the glorious name of our Jose Marti. However, always guiding ourselves by what our commander in chief and our party say, we are not going to go back. We are not going to (?give) any kind of concessions. Undoubtedly, we are going to respond.

They know that we are not going to be scared because of everything that has happened in the world and the criminal abuse they committed in Panama. If they are more and more aggressive because of the world situation, we are also going to be more aggressive. Our 30-year history proves it. We have responded every time that they have made a blackmail and threat move. We have stepped up the [word indistinct]. Undoubtedly, the people of Cuba are willing to face the situation and the consequences this tele-aggression may bring. We say like the young people say: 31 and Onward and With Fidel Until Death.

Protest at UNESCO; Other Reaction

FL2903193790 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Cuba's permanent delegation to UNESCO in Paris has condemned the U.S. television aggression against its country in a letter sent to all delegations accredited to the organization. The letter reiterates that Cuba will not allow the violation of its national sovereignty, with the declared goal of hostile propaganda, go unpunished. It asked UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor to demand that the U.S. Government immediately cease the television transmissions.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov denounced the tele-aggression on Cuba to the accredited foreign press. He stressed this gives way to the worsening of conflicts in Latin America and the Caribbean. He added that this move by Washington contradicts its statements on the U.S. support to the new political mentality in international matters.

Also, China, through its daily RENMIN RIBAO, mouthpiece of the Communist Party, strongly condemned the U.S. television and radio broadcasts against Cuba. It characterized the act as an attack and sabotage. It said the United States is using the television to penetrate and subvert order in a sovereign country and that the so-called Radio Marti insults the sensibility of the Cuban people.

JORNAL DE ANGOLA joins in the world criticism. It also includes remarks by various figures and officials

from other African countries who characterize the tele-aggression as unprecedented psychological warfare and interventionist action.

The secretary generals of the communist parties of Spain and Argentina, Julio Anguita and Patricio Echegaray, respectively, also criticized the television transmissions beamed to Cuba while the former Argentine deputy Miguel Monserrat said this is clear evidence of the imperialists' disdain for Latin America.

In Venezuela, over 300 personalities and the United Federation of Venezuelan Workers repudiated the attack on Cuba. The main Colombian newspapers did the same thing. They added that Havana's Radio Rebelde immediately named the U.S. television 'TV lie' [TV Menti; play of words].

3d Day of Jamming Reported

FL3003002490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0004 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The third day of fighting the Yankee television hostilities against Cuba brought the following developments. At 0310 [0810 GMT] the enemy began to transmit signals erratically, a situation which lasted until 0340 hours, at which time transmissions ranging from two to three minutes long began. At 0350 the enemy signal became regular, and at 0353 our country's directional point issued the order to activate the jamming systems.

Our assets against the aggression began to operate immediately and one minute later, at exactly 0354, the neutralization of the signal was reported over virtually the entire coverage area. Suddenly, and without notice, three minutes later, at 0357, the enemy signal transmitted from the Cudjoe Key platform went off the air, although the satellite signal continued until 0646.

Given the erratic behavior of the enemy signal, the jamming centers halted their operations at precisely 0406. We should add that all morning the tracking systems for the radioelectric spectrum continued to work throughout the national territory, but did not detect any developments of special significance.

Official Says U.S. Retreating

FL3003004890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Interview with Jorge Gomez Barata, Department of Revolutionary Orientation section chief, by Roberto Paneque Fonseca in Havana—live]

[Text] [Paneque] Barata, we wanted to ask you—since you have been following this process of measures against the imperialist aggression in the field of television—for your opinions about the initial results Cuba has obtained.

[Gomez Barata] The initial results are well-known. The Americans put the transmission plan into operation just as they had projected it, and we put into operation the prepared plans for our response, with results that are obvious. The enemy signal has been unable to appear on our screens with impunity in any instance for more than 10 minutes. The jamming has worked very well with a high level of efficiency, and to date the enemy signal has never been able to penetrate our radioelectronic spectrum for more than 10 minutes.

[Paneque] Barata, personally I have observed that there is not really any interest among the people in the enemy attack, from the viewpoint of receiving this message. What is your opinion of this?

[Gomez Barata] It is the expected result. This television station from the United States has nothing to offer our people in information or culture. Our people share the feeling that it is an attack on our country that is harmful to our sovereignty. I think that indifference is exactly the best response.

[Paneque] What information do you have about some opinions the State Department has given out?

[Gomez Barata] That was also within what we expected. The State Department has made statements acknowledging the completeness and efficiency of our jamming and scolding us for having carried out this jamming. The thing is that the State Department defends the interests of the attacker, or the interests of imperialism, and we defend those of our people. Therefore, it is obvious that our viewpoints cannot coincide.

[Paneque] Barata, last night's signal went off the air practically... [rephrases] that is, [?it disappeared]. Do you believe they are beginning to back down?

[Gomez Barata] I cannot say whether they are beginning to back down or not. I can say that they were the ones to take the first step backward.

Castro Interview for Brazilian Bandeirantes TV

PA2903221590 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0134 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Interview by President Fidel Castro with journalist Maria Gabriela for the "Face to Face" program of Bandeirantes Television in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 15 March—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Castro]...economic and material nature. Brazil has significant industrial development and has achieved progress in many areas of the economy, science, and culture sectors. We are interested in this. We have also made progress. For example, we have made great progress in the science sector—we have tens of thousands of scientists working in the medicine and biotechnology sectors and in producing advanced equipment—advanced medical equipment, to mention one area. We have also achieved development in the tourism sector. You have also achieved it and this could be a source of exchange between us. I think that since we have many

things and many problems in common, the experience acquired by each country is very important to the other.

We will discover more possibilities in many sectors inasmuch as we work and have more contacts. There is a possibility for commercial exchange between Brazil and Cuba in each developed area, and this possibility has considerably increased. I believe that it should surpass the $200-million mark in each direction, so there is an economic interest. There is also a political interest. We are countries of this hemisphere and we must struggle for the hemisphere's development and integration. I do not believe we have a future without integration. Even though Brazil is the country that would least need it, given the magnitude of its territory and resources, even Brazil would need it. It would open up many possibilities.

[Gabriela] President Collor de Mello says that Latin American integration is changing from being a dream to becoming a reality. Do you believe it is a reality today or is there a lot yet to be done? For example, a joint effort to pay the foreign debt. Is this possible for Latin America (?nowadays)?

[Castro] One cannot yet say that integration is possible. Important steps have been taken to achieve progress. For example, the steps taken by Brazil with Argentina and Uruguay. These are the first steps. I believe it is still a dream. The steps have been taken to make this come true. I believe our people have no future if they are isolated. Integration has different importance for each country. It is much more important for smaller countries than for medium-sized and large countries, but it is important enough for all of us to struggle for this integration.

We can wage many struggles together. We should have waged them, above all concerning the foreign debt problem. I believe that one of the most important moments occurred in 1985. In my opinion, the optimum conditions existed to wage a united battle and find a solution not only to the foreign debt, but also to the new international economic order approved by the United Nations many years ago; to the unequal exchange; to protectionist measures; and to all those ways in which we are exploited and looted. That battle was not waged. I do not believe that we fought enough in that sector. We lacked the strategy.

Cuba talked much about the issue. In 1985 we spent entire months in meetings with economists, labor unions, peasants, women, students, political leaders, and scientists because we saw that it was a decisive moment. The creditors had yet to organize themselves. They were very demoralized, and I believe that Latin American countries could have united to wage that battle—if not a unity of Latin American countries, at least a unity of Third World countries—and we would have won. I am sure of that. However, there was not enough awareness of the problem. There was not enough political will to wage that battle and the opportunity was lost.

The creditors organized themselves afterwards and managed to impose their strategy. They said they had to discuss the issue with each country, one by one. While they joined together in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Paris Club, they imposed their joint style of negotiation on each country. It was practically the struggle of the elephant against the ant; they imposed their strategy. We were not able to jointly impose a negotiation strategy. It was almost considered a crime to talk about a debtors' club, simply because they said there was no such thing and they would not admit it and that we were not strong enough to unite and jointly discuss the issue with them.

[Gabriela] Commander, does Cuba feel excluded from Latin American integration? Is it not isolated because it has a political and economic system that is completely different from that of the entire continent?

[Castro] Why should we remain isolated? I think that the difference in ideology is not an obstacle. The difference in the economic and social system is not an obstacle either. On the contrary, it makes it easier for us simply because if we say we are going to buy trucks from Brazil of this or that type, we will buy them from Brazil. If we say that we are going to purchase some type of equipment Brazil has, we will buy it from Brazil, and if Mexico has some, we will buy the type Mexico has.

It is easier for us to enforce a policy and to enforce economic integration agreements. If, within that economic integration certain areas or branches correspond to us, we can push forward with them without any difficulty. As for lifting taxes, we do not need to abolish customs taxes simply because we do not charge customs taxes. So, if we pledge to develop trade with any Latin American country, even if it is capitalist, there is absolutely no obstacle.

The most-favored-nation clause.... [changes thought] If they tell us tomorrow that all customs barriers must be eliminated, we will eliminate all customs barriers. We are in a better position than any other Latin American country to integrate into the Latin American economy and comply to the letter because our economy is not in the hands of transnational companies. One must think that, as a rule, the transnational companies are foes of our integration and that many times when they make investments, they do so to obtain an advantage and to produce earnings that they take away and that escape from our hemisphere. Our country is in the best position to prevent the flight of capital. Not a single dollar escapes from our country simply because our economy is a planned and programmed economy and the state decides where the investments will be made.

So, according to my point of view and because of other arguments I can present, it is much easier for Cuba to integrate than it would be for any other Latin American country.

[Gabriela] Let us talk about sugarcane production...

[Castro, interrupting] Yes.

[Gabriela] Brazil and Cuba are major producers. Now then, here, in Brazil, there are critics of sugarcane production because they say that the area used to plant sugarcane could be used to plant food crops. Proportionally, Cuba has a much larger area planted with sugarcane. It already has the same problems. Is it short of areas to produce food?

[Castro] I do not want to get into arguments with Brazilian alcohol producers, for instance. I think that they have adopted a measure here that is possible from the economic standpoint because they could count on surplus labor and large tracts of land. I myself have estimated how much alcohol can be produced with a hectare of sugarcane—whether it is four, five, or six, depending on the yield of sugarcane per hectare. A country like Brazil can have 10 million hectares, 100,000 sq km. It is one-eightieth of its territory, and in those 100,000 sq km—10 million hectares—it can perfectly produce 40 million, 50 million, 60 million tons of alcohol. At a time when gasoline was worth $500 [quantity not specified]—it is now worth a little less—you could get $3,000, or $2,500 worth of alcohol from a hectare and give jobs to many jobless people.

So, I made all the estimates from this standpoint and realized that production was sustainable from the economic standpoint. I saw another situation. One of Brazil's developments was based on the automotive industry, which also provides jobs to dozens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of Brazilians, and on other industries that work for the automotive industry. The country did not have enough oil. The country began to increase its oil exploration. It discovered oil, so it is now producing 50 percent or 60 percent [of what it needs], but still has to import.

This was developed very much when the price of oil went up to $30 per barrel and Brazil had no other alternative but to follow that path to guarantee [the supply] to its own automobile industry and save convertible foreign exchange to be able to sustain economic development. Cuba's situation is different. There is no surplus land in Cuba. There is no surplus labor in Cuba either. We have even had to mechanize the sugarcane harvest.

It is more economical for Cuba to produce sugar, particularly since we had secure markets at a reasonable sugar price. If we produced eight tons of sugar, for instance, we could get for those eight tons of sugar—according to the prevailing price of $400 a ton—over $3,000, plus the molasses and the sugarcane by-products for animal feed. If, in addition to that, you, you...

[Gabriela, interrupting]... something like an alternative...

[Castro, interrupting]... as an alternative energy [source], no. I am going to explain it to you. I am going to continue explaining this to you. If you could plant corn, when you made the economic comparison between the corn we could get per hectare—which is sometimes three tons, four tons.... [changes thought] If the world price dropped, or if the price we had fixed in agreements with other countries dropped, it would be much more economical—given the conditions of our climate and the scarcity of land—to produce sugar and all its by-products, than to produce corn. This is because our climate is not an ideal climate. It is not in the zone where the Great Lakes and the major temperate corn-growing areas of the United States, Europe, and Asia are located.

So, at the begining, we made every economic calculation in this sense. We discovered later, and know today, that the corn for milk and meat production is equivalent to sorghum; that corn, no, pardon me.... [changes thought] Some research we did in our country allowed us to turn it into a feed rich in protein. Our sugarcane became corn and sorghum, the raw material for the production of milk, meat, and other feed for many animal species. This research makes it more reasonable to use sugarcane as feed.

That is why we had never considered alcohol....[changes thought] we used to manufacture alcohol from syrup-....[corrects himself] from molasses, but it is much more economical and useful to turn molasses into proteinaceous syrup, a syrup enriched through a fermentation process, and to raise, for example, pigs. It is more economical to feed cattle than to use the sugarcane to produce alcohol or molasses, regardless of the price of molasses on the world market. You can manufacture alcohol for the petrochemical industry or you can produce alcohol from molasses for export purposes, but it was undoubtedly more economical to produce....[changes thought] It was matter of social policy and I certainly considered it.

If you review the statistics from any country and discover that a country has a malnutrition rate of 50

or a high rate of infant deaths—and the cause is partly determined by a lack of nutrition during pregnancy and a lack of nutrition during the first year of life—and if you analyze the issue from the social viewpoint, and if you do not have much land available, then it is undoubtedly more reasonable to dedicate that work force of thousands, or tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands, and use that land to produce food for the population. I wholly agree with you on that. I cannot give my opinion about Brazil because Brazil possibly has the work force, land, and technology to produce alcohol and produce food.

I saw the Brazilians as very enthusiastic and I saw many countries asking about the advantages of doing this, and I realized that many countries did not have Brazil's enormous territory—8.5 million sq km—and enormous population—130 or 125 million that it would have by that time—to produce alcohol from sugarcane that was cut by hand. It is a fact that you can produce alcohol from sugarcane that was cut by hand—at least at that time. That is why I say: You have enough land for both

things. However, many countries viewed the whole idea with enthusiasm at a time when oil commanded such prices because they thought it was a technology that could be applied everywhere, without analyzing the availability of land and a work force.

We analyzed everything very well in Cuba, and it was much more economical to use the land for sugarcane production and trade for food that we could not produce—for example, wheat. Our land is not good for wheat because we would have to produce it at a much higher price, plow the land every year—as must be done with corn and other crops. Meanwhile, with the sugarcane, you can get a plantation every seven, 10 or 15 years. That is why it was much more convenient for us to use the sugarcane for other purposes given Cuba's specific conditions. The idea has been confirmed now that we have turned the sugarcane into the raw material to produce meat, milk, and proteinaceous food of animal origin. That is what I can explain about this, because I have thought a lot about it.

[Gabriela] President, like everyone else, I want to talk with you about elections in Latin America. Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, and Nicaragua—political power is being renewed in Latin America through elections. With due respect...

[Castro, interrupting] Yes, yes, yes.

[Gabriela] Without provocation...

[Castro, interrupting] Of course.

[Gabriela] I ask you: Is it not heal....heal....

[Unidentified speaker] Healthy.

[Gabriela] Is it not healthy to have leadership alternatives? Is it not necessary to have leadership alternatives to achieve a country's development?

[Castro] First, I answer your question with great pleasure. The only thing that worries me is that, since I have been asked the same question so many times, I have had to answer the same way and I do not want to repeat the same answer. I do not want to bore Brazilians with the argument. Many of the questions are the result of ignorance about Cuba and ignorance about the way in which the state's powers are established in our country. Many people ask us when we will hold elections—we hold elections every two and a half years. Our country adopted a system that was not adopted by socialist countries—by any socialist country—and our party does not participate in the candidates' nominations. Those who participate in the candidates' nominations are the people, who participate in various meetings in every district. They can propose between two and eight candidates. Therefore, the people participate in those elections and their participation is very high—like no other country.

Barely 50 percent of the people vote in the United States and approximately 97 percent vote in every Cuban election to choose district delegates, who later elect all state authorities. The same delegates elect municipal authorities, provincial authorities, and the members to the National Assembly of the People's Government. The people also propose and discuss these appointments in meetings. This is not known to the world because we do not have the mass media of the United States.

[Gabriela] But you can recognize that everything revolves around you. What will happen to Cuba when you leave power?

[Castro] Wait, wait, wait. You have asked me another question before I could answer the previous one. You have lost me. You asked me about leadership alternatives.

[Gabriela] Yes.

[Castro] I had to explain this. I have also said that there are many forms of elections, now and throughout history. I am forced to repeat this: for example, people in the United States have elections and almost no one votes. The president is elected by 26 percent of the voters. It is not even a direct vote. They vote.... [changes thought] Of course, they support a party, either the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, which is the same thing. You must understand that they cannot talk about leadership alternatives between Republicans and Democrats because it.... [changes thought] They are the same dog with a different collar. Latin America knows this better than anyone.

Therefore, there are no alternatives to the existing status between the two main parties—the establishment as they call it. I do not speak English very well. The two main parties of the great U.S. monopolies succeed each other in power. What exists in the United States is a continuation of power. They even vote.... [changes thought] Each state has a number of representatives. There may be a candidate who gets the greatest number of votes and yet he will not become the president, because it will depend on the number of states in which he won and the votes involved. Other countries do not elect their heads of state. England does not elect one. They have a queen—I do not know the current queen's name. With due respect, I do not remember. I think her name is Elizabeth of England. This is a hereditary right which has existed for approximately 500 years. A right by birth, an inheritance. It is power achieved for genetic reasons because the sons inherit it from their fathers, the grandsons inherit it from the grandfathers, and the great grandchildren inherit it from their great grandfathers. Is it not like that?

They have an emperor in Japan. Also [words indistinct]. The head of state is not elected by direct vote. Felipe Gonzalez is not elected by direct vote. The people elect their parliamentarians and then they elect the Spanish head of state. The same thing happens in Italy and the FRG. In France there is another mixture of formulas to elect the president. There are many ways to elect a country's president. Thus, election by direct vote is not

the only electoral system. As you may know, many factors affect the system of election by direct vote. The truth is that if I were nominated as a candidate, and if they let me speak a couple of times, perhaps I would not do badly; perhaps I would win an election by many, many votes. Perhaps, I could win an election by direct vote only by talking to the people, without having to deliver televised speeches. My victory in an election by direct vote would probably depend on whether I was so old that no young women would want to vote for me or—on the contrary—on whether young women see me as a grandfather figure and therefore vote for the good grandfather. If for example I were a very good speaker, but I knew nothing about economics, statistics, or anything of the sort, I could still convince millions of people to vote for me. Who can then guarantee that an election by direct vote is the best way to elect a country's president?

I respect that system. We must all respect that system. And we all do. But in my opinion, the system by which the country's parliament elects the president is a more reliable one. That is the system that prevails in Cuba. It is a more reliable and responsible system. You know that all human beings are very emotional. [Castro claps] It could be that perhaps you run for the presidency and I will have no other choice but to vote for you. [Castro claps]

[Gabriela] [Laughs].

[Castro] Of course. I will see that you are nice, that you talk nicely, that you smile, and then I will decide to vote for you. At that moment I just forget about everything else, I fall in love with you and I vote for you. Do you see what I mean? All these factors influence the electoral system of direct voting. In addition, the media has great influence on that system. Financial resources exercise great influence on that system. I am aware of the way in which many elections in our Latin America are held. We talk and clap, but the wealthiest candidate wins. That is not always the case though. No, no. I could never assert something like that. But there are Latin American countries which even use U.S. electoral techniques about what a candidate needs to do to be liked by the people and to obtain their vote. The candidates who have more means and who are more known by the people can win an election. [Words indistinct] that way. I am not saying the system is bad. All these systems change. One system is replaced by another. I am not even critizing the British system with all its royal blood or the Belgian or Swedish systems. You know that for many years Sweden has lived in a social-democratic system. People have a very good standard of living there. And yet Sweden has a king. I am not criticizing those systems. I am simply stating that there are many ways to elect a president and I have never heard anybody say that the British do not have a democratic system. It is a democratic system simply because it is a British system. [Castro pounds table] I have never heard anybody say that the Swedish system is not a democratic one. And it has all those things I mentioned.

We could go further and talk about the Catholic Church for example. The Catholic Church is a state, the Vatican. It is an institution. The pope is not elected by direct vote in the [words indistinct] Catholic Church. Not all priests and bishops can vote for the pope. Only a certain number of cardinals, who have been elected by a pope, can vote to elect the pope. And everybody respects the Vatican as a religious institution and a state. And then suddenly our system, which we believe is a very democratic one, is not considered such. And people ask us when are we going to hold elections in Cuba.

[Gabriela] Can I change the question slightly?

[Castro] Go ahead, change it. Yes.

[Gabriela] You are wonderful. I would also vote for you, by the way.

[Castro] Thank you. That gives me hope because if I had the means, I would communicate with the people.

[Gabriela] You are Cuba's living history, both the free and extraordinary history of Cuba. What would happen to Cuba if you were no longer in power for one reason or another?

[Castro] Right, like because of a heart attack? In fact, it is a miracle that I have not had one here yet, because working 24 hours straight without sleep, I myself have wondered whether I am going to have a heart attack or not. And then I tell myself: No, I am not, because nature has given me a very healthy heart.

Everybody has blood pressure problems caused by worries or by an excessive consumption of animal fat which raises people's cholesterol levels or their blood pressure, thus leading to a cerebral hemorrhage or any other disease. [Words indistinct] even AIDS. As you know, I greet and embrace many people everywhere I go. Perhaps, if somebody has an injury and if there is contact between my blood and somebody else's blood...even that could happen. In other words, we could die at any time. And I agree with you on that.

What would happen if I died? Your question places me in the center of efforts that many—not one single man—but many men have made. You are placing me in the center of efforts made by an entire nation. If all those efforts collapse, I should be sent to hell. And I say hell, because that is the place which is more or less worthy of an individual who has been so wandering and so incompetent as to believe that social and revolutionary work can be conducted based on his personal efforts.

I maintain the premise that the revolution is the work of an entire people; that it is built by an entire people; that it is defended by an entire people as a mother or a father defends their children. That is our revolution. It is defended by all of the people.

Our revolution has many talented people. What have we done? We wiped out illiteracy very early on. We gave all Cubans the opportunity to go to school. Hundreds of

thousands of youths have gone to universities, including exceptionally talented youths. And now we have wonderful youths. They are very cultured. If we were talking about illiterate people... If you said to me: In Cuba only 20 percent of the population knows how to read and write. But the truth is that those who work in factories in Cuba have at least finished high school. Workers in Cuba have completed high school and, or university studies. We have developed our people's talent, not only technological and scientific talent, but political talent. We have wonderful youths who can continue the work of the revolution.

Alternatives must exist. We can adopt 20 different measures or do 20 different things. We have been the founders of the revolution.

Founders of revolutions have much authority, there is no doubt about that. However, a revolutionary is not a guy who engages in business. He is an individual who devotes himself to a cause. He can renounce this cause. I could even tell our country: Just forget about all of us; we do not want to continue working. We are all going to retire. Do we have a right to retire? We have been waging a battle for more than 30 years against the most powerful empire of the world. Does a soldier, a fighter, a revolutionary have a right to retire? We cannot determine that. We do not really care. I have said we will continue struggling, from one position or another. Our people have decided that. We are not the ones who will decide that. Revolutionaries only rest in their tombs. We will play one role or another.

I met with the members of the University of Havana one day before leaving on this trip. I spoke to them about these same topics. There were 40,000 university students meeting there. We have had very close ties with them. I have said that as long as my heart beats and I can move a finger, I will be a soldier of the revolution and I will serve the revolution from any place that I could. Now, there are some things I cannot understand.

Thatcher has been prime minister for I do not know how many years. She is reelected, and when she makes mistakes, she is not reelected. The Falkland Islands' war led to Thatcher's reelection. She was undergoing a political crisis, but since she was able to wage war, she was given an opportunity to use modern weaponry and encourage chauvinism, she won the elections.

Felipe is also elected, others are reelected. If many mistakes are made, they are not reelected. If we had made many mistakes, the revolution would not have existed. Why does it exist? Why do we wonder why the revolution exists in a nation where the people have weapons in their hands? The people would not even have to wait for elections to make changes in any government because the people have the votes and the weapons. They have both things; they have power.

What are we without the people and without those people who defended the revolution against more than 30 years of harassment by the United States? If we make mistakes, we die. Now, these politicians cannot tell others anything.

Felipe can be elected 20 times if he works well because there are no constitutional restrictions on that. Let us suppose that Felipe is Plato revived. A political genius, one of the greatest in the world, and he wins 20 elections in Spain, and he lives as long as Methuselah. Are there any constitutional provisions that ban Felipe from doing this?

First, we were de facto. The victorious revolution gave us the responsibilities, but we institutionalized the revolution many years ago. We have our electoral system. It is true that the revolution was a de facto government. All revolutions are de facto governments, starting with the French Revolution, the Bolshevik Revolution, and all the revolutions that have existed everywhere, all of the time. First, they have been de facto governments, and later they have institutionalized the revolutions. That is what we also did.

[Maria Gabriela] I could mention a list of socialist countries that are choosing another path.

[Castro] What path?

[Gabriel] Another one.

[Castro] Another one, but how do you define that quote another one unquote?

[Gabriela] They...

[Castro, interrupting] From an economic and social point of view?

[Gabriela] All of that began with the establishment of Gorbachev's perestroyka, do you agree?

[Castro] Yes, but not all of those processes. The process in Poland began before perestroyka.

[Gabriela] However, perestroyka led to all of that.

[Castro] Maybe without that being the purpose. I believe perestroyka was conceived as an effort to correct errors of socialism, to improve socialism. However, maybe those who designed perestroyka could not imagine the effect it would have in those countries.

[Gabriela] So you feel that Gorbachev is a reformist and not a traitor.

[Castro] I would not go so far as to call Gorbachev a traitor. If I call him a reformist, I am saying this in a positive manner. He wanted to improve socialism. That is what he wants. But we also did the same thing. Even before talking about perestroyka in the USSR, we were talking about a process of rectification at the Third Congress of our party, early in 1986, and before that there was talk about perestroyka in the USSR. We had been conducting our efforts to improve socialism, to rectify errors and negative trends.

I am going to tell you the truth. The main errors that we had to correct were those that stemmed from some things we copied from the socialist experience although our revolution was always notable for having a great creative spirit. We did things in a different way and interpreted revolutionary ideas in a different manner at certain times. There were some things we copied, especially while building our economy. To better understand this, it would be necessary to get a book entitled "The Economic Thought of Che" because Che was a prophet. Since the beginning of the revolution, when he was appointed industry minister and was entrusted with organizing industrial production and socialist enterprises, he immediately understood that it would be an error to try to build socialism using capitalist models. He thought deeply this.

Each year that passes, I feel more admiration for Che because when we still had other concerns about consolidating the revolution, he, because of the tasks with which he was entrusted, thoroughly delved into this. As a very clever man with a great creative spirit, he began to question all methods that were being implemented in building socialism in all socialist countries. He was a prophet and a visionary because we should now question the roots of the economic problems socialist countries have faced. The huge effort made by a country like the Soviet Union cannot be denied—a country where a native revolution took place. There were social changes in other socialist countries, because of international circumstances such as World War II and its subsequent end. However, in the USSR and also in China, there were true revolutions which were not determined by external factors, which were not determined by external factors [Castro repeats himself].

[Gabriela] Commander, let us talk about another current revolution. Does not Soviet perestroyka suggest a weakening of economic centralization?

[Castro] As I see it; as I see it [repeats himself] Gorbachev's efforts were intended to solve problems in the Soviet Union. We have carried out economic rectification measures in a different way. This would be difficult to explain. However, we began by making the interest of the nation prevail over those of socialist enterprises because we saw that by using specific capitalistic models, enterprises were beginning to act like capitalist enterprises and placing their interests over those of the nation. The issue of centralization has to be analyzed from various points of view. It has nothing to do with the method of building socialism. There can be an administrative decentralization and decentralization in the use of public resources and spending, as we have. We have a huge administrative decentralization. The central state in Cuba does not get involved in the administration of schools. Schools are administered by municipalities and provinces. Hospitals in our country are not administered by the central government; they are administered by the municipalities and provinces.

Most of the transportation system in Cuba is run by the municipalities and provinces. Local production industries are not run by the central government. We are more decentralized than even the U.S. Government—I mean the U.S. country—and the Brazilian federation. This is very healthy. The principle of decentralization is very healthy in the areas of administration, economics, industry, and enterprises.

The Cuban state runs the energy industry, the railroad system, the national transportation enterprises, and the large branches of the chemical and mining industries, which are basic industries that cannot and should not be run at a local level.

I said from the start that there must be an economic development program and plan. Being able to plan a development program is not a privilege. That is what we are doing. Sometimes the plan becomes too confining. A five-year plan is prepared and new possibilities arise two years later, but it is necessary to wait two or three years before implementing them. Or maybe you make an annual plan in December and new possibilities or new problems arise in March and you must solve them. In my opinion, this is a personal view. The ideal thing is a combination of the program or plan—whatever you want to call it—and the capability of providing quick solutions to new situations and problems. We sometimes make a scientific discovery and the decision to implement it is made less than 24 hours later. We go from a pilot plant to a large scale plant so that we can implement that scientific discovery.

The ideal thing....[changes thought] What does socialism have? Socialism has the privilege of being able to program things. What does capitalism have? It does not have the privilege of being able to program things, but it usually provides quick solutions to new problems and situations. However, the economy has been developed in a chaotic manner. In fact, modern facets of capitalism also call for plans. Even if they are tentative plans, they provide guidance, manage credits, and this type of thing. Thus, they are able to guide the country's development in one direction or another.

Referring to the centralization of investments, if you have.... [changes thought] If you need 1 billion [currency unspecified] and you only have 200 million [currency unspecified], you cannot pass on the decision of how to make the investment. I have discussed this with specialists, eminent administrators, and capitalists. I told them: When United Fruit Company or General Motors or any of those large enterprises has less money than they need, if they had 1 billion [currency unspecified] and only had 200 million [currency unspecified], do they adopt the policy [corrects himself] is the decision on how to spend those 200 million [currency unspecified] individually adopted in each one of the great transnationals' factories? They said no.

Really, it is important for an underdeveloped country, which never has enough resources, to make the decisions

on the most important investments and development plans. That is the viewpoint I defend, and that is what we do in our country. In fact, we are doing more with less resources than ever by implementing these ideas.

[Gabriela] Commander, several East European countries which have traditionally been Cuba's allies, recently voted against your government in a motion criticizing the human rights situation in your country. Are you not afraid of these changes in their position? Is the change capable of affecting the economic relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba?

[Castro] No, because the Soviet Union voted in our favor. The Soviet Union strictly abides by all the pledges and agreements with our country in every sense. Thus, we have no complaints about the Soviet attitude. We know that they have some definate problems and sometimes those problems can cause the supply of merchandise or raw materials to be somewhat difficult. That is the type of problem we have. Our relations with the USSR are different from our relations with other countries.

I would not like to repeat so much. I analyzed these parties' [as heard] attitudes during the closure of the women's congress in Havana approximately eight or 10 days ago. We can use the word treason in this case, but it is treason of various degrees. Poland was already in the hands of opposing forces, meaning forces that had declared their intentions to build capitalism in Poland. Czechoslovakia's situation was not the same, but it was already in the hands of forces which had showed their inclination toward capitalism. The ruling party in Hungary was still the same one, meaning the same party that signed economic agreements with us.

[Gabriela] Romania?

[Castro] Not Romania, because it did not vote; it was not on that commission. We cannot judge Romania for what Hungary did nor can we judge what remains of the GDR for what Hungary did. This is why I have not mentioned those two countries.

However, Bulgaria was there with the same party, which changed its name. A change in party name...[changes thought] If I change your name tomorrow, if I called you Azucena or any other name instead of Gaby, you would not be changed; you would continue to be the same person. A change in name does not alter the commitments that you have made throughout your life. That is Bulgaria's case.

This happened because these countries are so desperate to curry favors from the United States to obtain loans from the World Bank, and IMF, to obtain favored-nation status, and money. What they have done is repugnant. Now that the United States wants to broadcast a television station originating in that country in violation of our country; now that it is threatening us, their governments are siding with the disgraceful U.S. campaign against Cuba.

This can indeed be described as treason in various degrees. This could affect our economic relations because they have indeed made commitments with us as we have made commitments with them. We supply them with sugar, nickel, citrus fruits, and important raw materials and buy from them things that nobody in the world would buy from them. We buy certain technologically outdated equipment that only we can use. I regret having to repeat this argument, but you asked a question and I must explain this to you.

Only we buy that equipment. We just sent out sugar. Sugar prices are now relatively high. We sent out about 1 million tons of sugar costing more than $300 million today [corrects himself] costing $400 million today. What do they supply us with? Food? How much? Between $40-45 million in food. Food is among our important imports; it is a priority.

Only we can use many of the other things such as equipment that we buy from them. If those things were on the market, they would not be able to compete. Therefore, they may adopt economic measures against us, but at the same time they would be harming their own economies because they would have to go elsewhere to obtain our raw materials and products.

[Gabriela] The rapprochement of the two superpowers is a reality, a fact. There is almost a cordial relationship; there is a detente...

[Castro, interrupting] Yes, the improvement in their relations.

[Gabriela] Yes, between the United States and USSR. Does this not imply that there could be a change in U.S. policy toward Cuba and vice versa?

[Castro] I do not understand your question very well.

[Gabriela] There is a detente between the two superpowers in the wake of perestroyka, between the USSR and the United States. There is an almost cordial relationship. Will this not change U.S. policy toward Cuba?

[Castro] There is indeed an improvement in USSR-U.S. relations. However, these two countires are not seeking the same goal. My understanding is that the USSR advocates a sincere peaceful policy while the U.S. policy is opportunistic, because while it is talking peace, it is increasing the arms budget and continuing to implement Star Wars and develop increasingly sophisticated weapons.

The USSR wants something from the United States, but the USSR is seeking peace while the United States is seeking hegemony. This is the root of the problem. We have no objection to the improvement of relations between the USSR and the United States. We object to whatever is motivating the United States to implement this policy with an arrogant and overconfident attitude. This poses a threat to other Third World peoples.

We wonder what kind of peace is involved here. The peace of the large powers and the empire's war against small countries? War against Panama, Nicaragua, and Grenada? Bombings of Libya, intervention in any country;? Intervening in Philippines and meddling with its domestic affairs, including its planes using that country's aircraft carriers?

We want a definition of what kind of peace is involved here. We demand that it be a peace for all countries and not only between the large powers; that this not be a war of a large power against small Third World countries. This is my view of the situation and we have clearly voiced our opinion in this regard.

[Gabriela] Let us talk a little about tourism.

[Castro] About anything you want.

[Gabriela] President, if you had to convince a group of Brazilians to visit Cuba as tourists, what would you tell them?

[Castro] Perhaps, I would tell them that Cuba is hell.

[Gabriela] [Laughs]

[Castro] Perhaps if I tell them that, they would become curious and would want to find out what hell is like. Perhaps that method would work because many people want to visit Cuba and many tourists want to come to Cuba. [Words indistinct] they are taken to the beaches. They are taken to [word indistinct] but they say: No, we want to see the things of the revolution. We want to know about school and health programs and all that.

Anyway, what would I tell Brazilian tourists? I would tell them that they would have a lot of fun in Cuba with little money. I would tell them that they are going to find more affection than in any other place. I would tell them they are going to find hospitality, a healthy society, a beautiful country, and nice weather, although that would not be anything new for you because you have both tropical and temperate regions. But I would tell them that we have absolutely beautiful and extraordinary places. I would also tell them that they are going to meet a very patriotic, friendly, and revolutionary people. Do you think these things would awaken some kind of interest in visiting Cuba? I would tell them that we are not going to indoctrinate them and that we are not going to drown them in Marxist-Leninist ideas. I would tell them that they are going to return home healthier and happier for having visited Cuba and ready to continue working for Brazil's development.

[Gabriela] Let us now talk about education. The new Brazilian education minister expressed his interest in getting acquainted with the Cuban education system. You have practically eradicated illiteracy in Cuba. How did you do that?

[Castro] We mobilized the people during the first years of the revolution. All teachers, high school and university students were mobilized. We mobilized 100,000 students. We placed one teacher in almost every peasant home and in one year we had practically eradicated illiteracy. We then conducted a follow-up education program. With this program, we figured out a way to send those peasants to second, third, sixth grade, etc. Obviously, we could not do that by mobilizing students. We had to do it by organizing teachers and creating schools for adults. At a lower but sustained pace and after a certain number of years, those schools educated Cuban adults up to the sixth grade. In addition, there were no new illiterate people because we sent teachers all over the country. Not one single kid was left without a teacher. That was the first thing we did. We set up at least one classroom in every single town in the country. We trained enough teachers to educate all Cuban children.

We waged other battles after that. We waged battles against school backwardness. Then the explosion of high school students forced us to create ways to urge students to join teacher training schools and to convince them to work and study at the same time. That is how we created a series of programs to reach the current level. One hundred percent of our children go to school. Those who are mentally retarded attend special schools. We have an entire system of special schools for this type of children. We have an entire system of high schools, trade schools, college preparatory schools, college mathematics preparatory schools, sports schools, schools to train physical education teachers, and many other schools centered around a national education network that serves our entire population of children, teenagers, and youths.

In Cuba, over 90 percent of high school-age kids—those between seventh and 10th grade, seventh and 10th grade [repeats himself] are in school. Over 90 percent of our kids between 12 and 15 years of age also go to school. These ages correspond to students of first, second, and third year of college preparatory school according to our education structure.

We have approximately 300,000 university students. Of those 300,000 students, 120,000 are studying regular careers. The others are teachers, nurses, and the like, who are taking courses to obtain their bachelor's degrees. There is a total of 300,000 of them and approximately 200,000 of them are already working. The others are regular daytime students.

We are very pleased with our education system. I think it is better than that in any developed country. Our education system is better than the U.S. education system.

[Gabriela] Mr. President, corruption is one of our biggest problems...

[Castro, interrupting] Of course, but I think I missed something I wanted to tell you. We would gladly receive the new Brazilian education minister and give him all the information available to us. We would be really pleased to see Brazil—with its talented people and resources—implement an education program, which is essential for the country's development and future. We

are now beginning to see the results of what we began to do in the field of education 30 years ago. Excuse me for interrupting you.

[Gabriela] All right, corruption...

[Castro, interrupting] Yes...

[Gabriela, continuing] ...is one of our biggest problems. Do you have corruption in Cuba?

[Castro] Let me tell you. You can hardly find corruption at the level of high-ranking leaders—at the level of cabinet minister or vice minister. It is very difficult to find the phenomenon of corruption at the level of manager of a factory or an enterprise. In other words, that is very difficult. I can point out to you very exceptional cases because we have been on the watch for it and a conscience against it has developed in our country. Therefore, you can only find extremely exceptional cases of corruption and we have tried and severely punished culprits when we have discovered them. We have a vice president in jail for embezzlement—a vice president of the Executive Committee. We have in jail a [cabinet] minister. We have even had one at the level of minister, but a post... [changed thought] We have even had a comrade who worked on a team, who worked with me. At a given moment this comrade, who had attained a certain importance—an intelligent young man indeed—allowed himself to be tempted and committed.... [changes thought] Yes, some people are in jail because of it, but the ones at those levels are very few. Now then, in other countries...

[Gabriela, interrupting] There was the case of General Ochoa [Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa, tried and executed for drug trafficking, other crimes], for instance.

[Castro] The case of Gen. Ochoa was not exactly embezzlement. It involved crimes other than typical embezzlement. He had begun to use funds, first without authority, or sometimes with the pretext of (?taking basic materials to camps). After that, on a personal basis, he began to use the money and thus he managed to gather up an amount and open an account abroad. The amount was not large, but it was.... [changes thought] I do not remember exactly. It was something like $100,000 or $200,000. It was not very clear what he intended to do by putting that fund together in an incorrect manner. He took funds.

It was not the typical crime of embezzlement. What was worse about Ochoa was that he had learned that there was a group that was involved in drug trafficking activities. It was a group from the Interior Ministry with important functions. It was a section of the Interior Ministry. He learned about it and did not report it. He not only learned about and did not report it, but contacted them to try to carry out drug trafficking deals...

[Gabriela, interrupting] Even...

[Castro, interrupting] This was the crime, this was Ochoa's most serious crime, the crime...

[Gabriela, interrupting] Attempts have even been made...

[Castro, interrupting] Yes...

[Gabriela] Have not attempts even been made to link (?your) name with that of Noriega?

[Castro] Yes, of course, what do you think the United States (?wants) to do? They are indeed trying to link it. Now, what do you want me to tell you? I will explain anything you wish about that.

[Gabriela] No, no. What I want is to know...

[Castro, interrupting] Yes, you have raised an interesting point, because it demonstrates the cynicism of the U.S. policy and propaganda. They did this through a deserter Noriega had in Panama, who made an accusation and said that a laboratory had been occupied. He said that when the laboratory was occupied, I was asked for advice about what to do about it and that I had told him [Noriega]: Return that money and release those people. If anyone had dared ask me for advice about such things—and I have no recollection whatsoever in my life of anyone, much less the leader of another country, coming to talk with me, a revolutionary who acts and has acted all my life based on principles, to discuss a thing like that with me. I would have said: Do you think I am a sort of priest and you are here to confess and ask me for advice? If anyone ever approaches me and tells me that, maybe I will give him that advice.

However, the problem is as follows: Even since Torrijos' time, very close relations have beem established between Cuba and Panama. Even Torrijos, since the time when the canal was under discussion—he said this publicly—sent delegations to Cuba to report on all the details of canal negotiations.

When Torrijos died he was replaced by others and then Noriega replaced him. [as heard] Noriega was Torrijos' replacement and he continued Torrijos' struggle for the canal. Now then, Noriega worked....[changes thought] He was G-2 and he worked closely and cooperated with U.S. intelligence. There is something else. I have proof, irrefutable proof, of all the topics that I talked about with the Panamanian delegations and what we talked about every time this man called, I do not remember his name.

[Unidentified speaker] Blandon.

[Castro] What?

[Unidentified speaker] Blandon.

[Castro] Blandon. Now they are taking more of Noriega's people and promising them money if they accuse Noriega. I have even talked with Noriega's lawyers. If this is the evidence they have against Noriega, then they have no evidence against him, and I have all the proof which proves the falsehood of those accusations. I have given part to the lawyers but I have kept another part. You know how the judicial procedures work in the

United States. They reach a settlement, come to an agreement, and I cannot show all the cards, but I have all the cards in my hands to irrefutably prove the lies. Now the United States has brought a problem upon itself. It has invaded that country. They have kidnapped Noriega and it turns out that they have no evidence to back their charges.

[Gabriela] But...

[Castro, interrupting] Wait. This creates an image on an international level, no?

[Gabriela] President, Cuba has a single party system. Only...

[Castro, interrupting] Just like in the United States.

[Gabriela] Yes. Only the PCC, the Communist Party of Cuba.

[Castro] Yes.

[Gabriela] I imagine that there are other facets which have different opinions and thoughts in your country. How can those facets state their views?

[Castro] There are two basic facets in our country. The revolutionary current and the counterrevolutionary current, meaning the continuation of the United States' actions against the Cuban revolution. Those are the basic currents. There are no others. All the revolutionaries are with the revolution and the counterrevolutionaries are on the other side. Many of them live in the United States and, as a matter of fact, there are small groups that oppose the revolution and are at the service of the United States.

I can tell you something about this. One day I talked with a group of Italian parliamentary members and I told them: Look, the country defends itself with unity, the close unity of all the people. Our people's unity is our NATO. The people's unity is our Warsaw Pact. We will make no concession which implies the smallest division among our people because it is a vital issue for us. The need for other parties has not risen in our country and no one knows when it may rise. I tell you the unity issue will prevail above all for the time being and as long as our country is threatened.

[Gabriela] What does that mean? Political prison?

[Castro] It is political prison if someone violates the law. I believe you also...[changes thought] If someone conspires against your country's constitution; if someone spies on the government and the Armed Forces in favor of a foreign power; and if someone acts against the country, would you refrain from taking some action or would you punish him? Do not your penal laws and the penal laws throughout the world punish that kind of crime against a state's integrity? We punish the crimes against our socialist state, but following legal procedures, legal norms, and established laws.

In fact, there were 300 counterrevolutionary organizations in the early years of the revolution. There were-....[corrects himself] they were organized by the United States, but the people won the battle in the long run, and that is why the counterrevolution's activities are minimal. Let me tell you, we have no need.... [changes thought] All the revolutionaries are united in our party. There were previously several organizations but at a given moment we decided to unite and we have maintained that unity. This makes it possible to unite all the counterrevolutionaries' viewpoints. You ask me if the counterrevolutionaries' have any chance and I say no.

[Gabriela] Do you have many political prisoners these days?

[Castro] We now have a minimum amount of political prisoners?

[Gabriela] How many?

[Castro] There are possibly 100 or so political prisoners, if you call a political prisoner or someone who plots with the enemy to act against the revolution a spy. However, the minimum number... [changes thought] there was a time when there were thousands, back in the early years of the revolution.

[Maria Gabriela] President, you know that this interview would not have been possible a short time ago in Brazil. We had a period of totalitarianism, and a socialist leader like you would have been banned from television.

[Castro] I gave some interviews to the press.

[Gabriela] The press?

[Castro] Some journalists visited me.

[Maria Gabriela] There is no doubt it was censored [she laughs] because for 20 years we had a strong censorship. Now let us see. You have a state-controlled media. What does that mean? Does it mean that whatever is published or announced must be in accordance with the state's interests first of all?

[Castro] You are going to get me into trouble with many businessmen and many important Brazilian people, which I do not want. You putting me on the spot. The press in our country is in the hands of the various grass roots organizations. The party has its newspaper, unions have their newspapers, as well as the youth, women, and the Army. They manage and edit their own newspapers.

The counterrevolution does not have a newspaper, but I will tell you this, although I do not want to start controversy or meddle into Brazil's domestic affairs, or start an argument with anyone here; I did not come here for that because I can discuss, argue, or reason with anyone. However, the owner of the television station appoints its director, anywhere in the world.

Even in the United States, a country that wants to be a model for others, whatever is published reflects what the

owner of the television station wants. He appoints whomever he wants. The same thing occurs with the mass media. No one knows this better than we do. Important events may be taking place, but if the government asks the media not to mention them, they are not reported. There is a lot of hypocrisy in all of this. On occasions we have gathered 300,000 people in front of the Interests Office to protest the violation of our airspace. However, in the United States a week passes and no one reports it. Why is this? Who decides? First of all the owners, and many times the government.

The way in which mass media is distributed in our country is as I told you. It is managed by various organizations. They are responsible for the editorial line of their newspapers. It is not the same as in a system of free of enterprise. Do you understand?

[Gabriela] Mr. President, I always remember you holding a cigar in your hands. However, I see that you no longer hold a cigar. Why? Have you stopped smoking?

[Castro] The Yankees thought I had lung cancer. [Maria Gabriela laughs] They had hoped so. However, the real reason why I stopped smoking, although tobacco is an important product for our economy and exports, was that we were conducting a health campaign. With each health campaign, it was concluded that a sedentary lifestyle which included smoking, and other factors were harmful. I decided that my contribution would be to not smoke at public events, so I announced my decision.

[Gabriela] Do you still smoke, anyway?

[Castro] No, I stopped smoking years ago. I decided not to smoke at public events. On some occasions, during interviews like this one, I would light cigars as the interviews were for foreign consumption, although they would be shown domestically too. I appeared with a cigar. However, I realized that it was necessary to strengthen the health campaign, and I decided that my last sacrifice for public health would be to stop smoking.

[Gabriela] Did you enjoy it? Did you enjoy smoking cigars?

[Castro] I started smoking when I was very young. My father, who had his own ideas about man, taught me how to drink wine. He was from Spain. I used to return to the countryside during my school vacation ...[changes thought] my father was a landowner but he was also a humble man. We always got together with other people, and he thought me how to drink wine, he used to get some bottles of wine from Spain during my vacation. Then, when I reached my third or fourth year of high school, he gave me a cigar. That is how I learned to smoke. One enjoys the smoke, the habit, the taste. Although I did like to inhale the smoke, it is still harmful, even for others. When I made the decision to quit smoking, I told my comrades that it would be my last sacrifice. No one had to convince me. I made the decision and announced it would be my last sacrifice for the country's public health. So one day I stopped smoking; since the motivation was strong, it was not too difficult. Some people thought I would smoke at home. However, I said to them: Look, in order to smoke, you need two or three accomplices: one to get you the cigars, another one to get you the matches, another one to clean the ashes you leave, because tobacco smokers leave ashes everywhere they go.

I mean, do you not think that I would die of shame thinking that one single person knew that I was deceiving all the Cuban people by continuing to smoke? Do you not think that I would die of shame if I hear that person saying: What a shameless man! He tells the people he does not smoke and yet he does. Do you not think that those three people having a bad opinion of me is enough?

[Gabriela] But you still drink wine, right?

[Castro] Of course I do. I also drink tea, rum, cognac, and whisky. [Castro claps] I have deprived myself of very few things. It was such a big sacrifice to stop smoking.

[Gabriela] Is it true that you are a very good cook?

[Castro] Well, I cannot say I have been given an olympic medal in cooking, but I cook well, modesty aside.

[Maria Gabriela, interrupting] What kind of dishes do you make...

[Castro, interrupting] If you want, I can fix you a very good cod fish, a good fish. I can invent a new recipe each day. Sometimes I cook it with garlic, some others I cook it with onion. I cook things differently every time. I prepare such good spaghetti that you would end up licking your fingers.

[Gabriela] You used to play basketball.

[Castro] I played various sports when I was young, when I was a high school student.

[Gabriela] And what are your hobbies now?

[Castro] I will not say that I do nothing, but I will tell you that I swim [Castro plays with meaning of words in Spanish].

[Gabriela] Do you swim?

[Castro] I swim.

[Gabriela] Do you swim everyday?

[Castro] Every time I can. I swim almost every day. We have a lot of work now, but I used to swim in the ocean. I always went offshore to dive. I got used to that. I need something more than the beach. I have to swim in the open sea. I also swim in pools. But sometimes, months go by before I can go out to the sea. But I try. I discipline myself to do exercise, which is good not only for one's physical but also mental health. It is very important, because it oxigenates the brain cells. I recommend that you do exercises, and I will not charge you for this advise. People tend to think that exercising only helps

the body, but it also helps the mind. If I have made too many mistakes today, you have to bear in mind that I have been working for about 24 hours straight without rest and that I have been unable to swim 20 or 30 lengths today. Bear that in mind.

[Gabriela] Commander...

[Castro, interrupting] This house does not have a pool.

[Gabriela] Commander, why are you always dressed in your uniform?

[Castro] This is my style. This is the first style I wore.

[Gabriela] Is it a habit or do you wear your uniform, because you prefer to do so?

[Castro] Yes, it is a habit. Well, I wear this one only when I travel. I normally use the olive green one, the same one I wore when I was in the mountains. It is more practical and reasonable. I do not need to change colors or to pick different suits, etc. My uniforms last a long time. I have been wearing it for a long time so I got used to it. The uniform does not mean that I am a militarist or anything like that. This uniform is what I wear. It is what I work in the same way that miners, drivers, and metal industry workers have their work clothes. I am very happy with these clothes. I do not want to change them. I do change clothes at night when I wear my pajamas. I could not sleep with my uniform on because I would be very hot.

[Gabriela] [Reporter giggles] What color of pajamas do you wear?

[Castro] Well, they give them to me and I get different colors. Sometimes they have stripes; sometimes they are one color; sometimes they have designs. I feel very comfortable wearing them at night.

[Gabriela] Commander, is it true that you work at night and sleep during the day?

[Castro] No. I work of course. In the mornings, I usually read a large number of documents and papers. I then use the afternoon and the evening until about 2300, 2400, 0100, or 0200, depending on the circumstances.... [changes thought]. Sometimes there are interviews like this one and you can ask me questions for three hours and I will answer you for three hours.

[Maria Gabriela laughs]

[Castro] I try to sleep between five to six hours. I am flexible in that regard, but I do not work at night and sleep during the day. One always rests more at night.

[Gabriela] Cuban men and Brazilian men are considered male chauvinists, but you...

[Castro, interrupting] Maybe Brazilian men...

[Gabriela] [Laughs].

[Castro, interrupting] Do not say that about Cuban men because we have been training ourselves for 30 years.

[Gabriela] Once you said...

[Castro, interrupting] We have been trying to rid ourselves of prejudices for 30 years. Ask the Cuban women.

[Gabriela] Yes. No, no I am not asking you about Cuban women. I am asking you about...

[Castro] The Cuban women just held their national congress recently.

[Gabriela] Talk to me about women in general. You once said that women have a dual job. They have to work as revolutionaries and...

[Castro, interrupting] And they work at home...

[Maria Gabriela, interrupting] And they play their revolutionary role in their relationships with men. Commander, talk to me about women.

[Castro] That is a serious topic. I promised I was going to give you short answers. I believe discrimination against women is one of the most difficult prejudices to eradicate. We have struggled for 30 years, but not without success. We obviously have to set up new goals. Cuban women are working toward those new goals. That has been a party policy, a policy of the revolution, and a policy of the Cuban Women's Federation, which is organized and composed of millions of women. These women have struggled against discrmination against women. We have made great progress in that regard. We even have a family code.

Many couples, especially young couples, share the household chores these days. Not only mothers stay at hospitals with their sick children. Fathers do also.

Women were discriminated against in our country. When the revolution triumphed, only 190,000 women were working. They worked in bars, were housemaids, and things like that. This shows you how much we have advanced, because the women's progress is not just a slogan; women need equal opportunities, equal work, and equal training.

We have advanced so much that today there are 1.4 million women in the labor force; they are nearly 40 percent of the country's labor force; they are 58 percent of the country's technical force; 58 percent [repeats himself]; they are 55 percent of the university students; and they are 61 percent of pre-university students. These figures are fresh in my mind because I was looking into them to prepare for the women's congress.

Therefore, in our country there is a right to have an equal salary for an equal job; there is a growing consideration for and a growing awareness among women. They have been in the front ranks of this battle. Today they have other goals. An issue that they often discuss is how to share responsibilities at home and parental responsibilities. They have many needs.

However, at this time, because of the situation of threats, everything associated with the revolution and country's defense have become a priority, even at the congress. Nevertheless, I am satisfied with the progress we have achieved and the status of women in our country today.

Nearly 50 percent of our country's scientists are women and 60 percent of our family physicians are women. I believe that they indeed occupy a position that is irreversible in our country's development.

[Gabriela] Commander, can you sing?

[Castro] I have a terrible voice. [Maria Gabriela laughs] I sing little, but I like music; nature did not give me a good singing voice.

[Gabriela] Do you dance?

[Castro] I am very bad at that too; I am disappointing as a dancer. Therefore, I do not recommend myself as your dance partner.

[Gabriela] [Laughs] Are you a happy man?

[Castro] I think so. I feel very happy and satisifed with my life and what I have accomplished over the years. As the popular saying goes: I can die in peace.

[Gabriela] Your critics claim that you are a dictator. Are you a dictator? Who is a dictator?

[Castro] I am an slave of the people. That is what I am. I am a man who works day and night on behalf and for the people who have a very strict notion of what justice and equity should be; a man who will never be accused of having abused power. However, what can we expect our enemies to say about me? That I am a saint? I have my own views. We can continue to discuss this in our next interview. [Maria Gabriela laughs]

We could talk about anything you want. I can tell you that I am a slave and a servant of the people. That is how I view myself and feel. This is how my compatriots view me. This is very important.

[Gabriela] Let us play word association now. I will say a topic and you reply with a phrase or word...

[Castro, interrupting] A word or phrase? Those are the rules of the game? I will fare very poorly in the end. [Maria Gabriela chuckles] You have made me nervous with this game.

[Gabriela] Cuba, define it.

[Castro] The earth's most sovereign country.

[Gabriela] Brazil, define it.

[Castro] The most beautiful country; the country most deserving of envy on the earth, because of its resources and its people, its men and women.

[Gabriela] Revolution, define it.

[Castro] Revolution or death.

[Gabriela] Religion, what is its role?

[Castro] That does not call for a phrase, but an explanation. [Maria Gabriela laughs] Religion must be respected. Man's feelings must be respected. You know what I think about this, because (Fey Beto) subjected me to a lengthy questionaire on all sorts of issues and edited a book that has been published in many languages entitled Fidel and Religion. This book has even been read in China and Arabic countries. It has been read in many countries, because I believe it was the first work that focused on the atittude of revolutions and socialist states toward religious beliefs.

[Gabriela] Marxism-Lenism, is it superseded? [superado]

[Castro] No, Marxist-Leninism must be developed and studied further, as it is a method for analyzing historical problems. There had been no other method of analyzing history before Marxism.

[Gabriela] Any idol?

[Castro] I have no idol.

[Gabriela] What are you afraid of?

[Castro] Have I ever been afraid? I think every man can feel afraid in the struggle. Courage is not being afraid, but challenging and overcoming fear. I could feel afraid of not being totally able to fullfil my duties as a revolutionary.

[Gabriela] A book?

[Castro] Jose Marti's work. War and Peace also...

[Maria Gabriela, interrupting] Tolstoy.

[Castro] Or, One Hundred Years of Solitude.

[Gabriela] By Garcia Marquez.

[Gabriela] [Asks another question] What is being modern?

[Castro] To be a revolutionary.

[Gabriela] Democracy?

[Castro] To be a revolutionary. To bring true democracy to the people and the masses.

[Gabriela] You were in jail.

[Castro] Jail is a place where one studies a great deal and rests a great deal. Afterwards, one longs for the peace one had once experienced.

[Gabriela] Model country?

[Castro] Cuba

[Gabriela] Passion?

[Castro] Passion? Revolution, and love too.

[Gabriela] A major statesman?

[Castro] Ho Chi Min was a major statesman.

[Gabriela] A dream?

[Castro] The times I have dreamed that I am back in the mountains creating the revolution.

[Gabriela] Define the United States?

[Castro] An imperialist country.

[Gabriela] The Soviet Union ...

[Castro, interrupting] Plunderer of the world. A country that has written brilliant pages in the history of mankind, and that has made major contribution to mankind's progress, a friendly country, a brother country, a people we love a great deal.

[Gabriela] The Soviet Union?

[Castro] Yes.

[Gabriela] Your future?

[Castro] My future is to work until my last breath for my country and the work of the revolution.

[Gabriela] Fidel Castro by Fidel Castro?

[Castro] I have not written that book yet. I have not.

[Gabriela] Why? How do you ...

[Castro, interrupting] I am a man who is very unhappy with himself and highly self-critical. I am never satisfied with the things I do because I feel that I have not done them well enough. I think this is a virtue. I am highly self-critical. I am constantly analyzing what I have done and if I have done it the best way or in the most adequate manner.

[Gabriela] Thank you for this interview.

[Castro] I do not know how this interview will come out?

[Gabriela] Fantastic.

[Castro] Thank you, very much. [applause]

Cooperation Agreements Signed With PRC

FL2903195490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Delegations from Cuba and China have signed in Beijing two cooperation agreements which include areas of the 1990-1991 plan dealing with the fields of agriculture; fisheries; public health; biotechnology; food, textile, and sugar industries; and the peaceful use of nuclear energy; among others.

State Councillor Song Jian characterized as important, necessary, and convenient the cooperation between China and Cuba when he received today Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. Song said that although China is not at the forefront of scientific development in the world, it has accomplished important achievements in the last decade and it is interested in Cuba's advances in biotechnology, harvesting of sugarcane and sugarcane by-products.

For his part, Melendez noted his satisfaction with the signing of the agreements at a time when other countries employ advanced science to militarily occupy Panama or attack Cuba through telecommunications.

Haiti

Constitution Reinstated; 29 Mar Declared Holiday

FL2903150290 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] We learned over National Haitian Television [TNH] last night that the government has made a number of decisions: to put the Constitution back into effect, terminate the prefectures, and disarm the undercover detectives. Because we have not yet, however, received copies of these communiques at the radio station, we cannot give the public further details on this matter right now. What we do know clearly, though, is that the government has taken steps to put the Constitution back into effect, terminate the prefectures, and disarm the undercover detectives.

We also inform listeners that the government has declared today a holiday, on the occasion of 29 March and the demonstration that is to be held today. Thus, neither schools nor public offices are open today, according to another press release read over TNH yesterday.

Justice Minister Announces CEP 'Reinstatement'

FL2903212290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Justice Minister Pierre Labissiere has announced the reinstatement of the Electoral Council [CEP] that organized the aborted elections of 29 November 1987. Minister Labissiere declared that the CEP was illegally and unconstitutionally dissolved by then-chief of state, General Henri Namphy. The minister explained, however, that the reconstitution of the old CEP depends on the willingness of its members—some of whom are currently abroad—and on acceptance from the institutions that originally chose them.

Press Release on CEP Members

FL2803193590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Because numerous sectors in Haiti have expressed reservations regarding the credibility of the Management Council of the CEP, the Justice Ministry

announces that in conformity with the will of the government of the Republic it is relaunching the electoral process. Minister of Justice Pierre C. Labissiere has asked the different bodies and organizations stipulated in Article 289 of the Constitution of 1987, to either reconfirm their representative on the CEP or designate someone else. [passage omitted] They have five days in which to do this. [passage omitted]

This is a press release from the Ministry of Justice received here at National Haitian Radio.

[Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales reported at 1400 GMT on 27 March that Dr. Jacques Jovin, treasurer of the CEP, had been reconfirmed as the representative of the Protestant Churches.]

Respect for Constitution Group Issues Memorandum

FL2903195290 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution has issued a memorandum in which it proposes work the new provisional civilian government must do without delay if it wishes to respect the Constitution and the will of the people:

The first problem that must be solved is security. There are constitutional articles under which this can be done. Article 263 says that the public forces should be composed of two separate forces, the Army and the police. No other armed corps has a right to exist on national territory. Article 268.2 says no one may carry a weapon without authorization from the chief of police. Thus, the Army general staff must order all corps of undercover detectives and criminal thugs dissolved, must disarm them, and must bring them to trial. The unarmed Haitian people must do everything they can to help detach these undercover detectives so peace can return to Haiti.

The second issue is freedom of association and assembly. Article 31 guarantees by law, freedom of association and assembly in connection with politics. Article 31.2 says the police need only be informed in advance of all assemblies held on public roads. Thus, no authority has the right to forbid or set any conditions for holding political meetings. [passage omitted]

Third, honest and patriotic members of the FADH must denounce before the pertinent authorities all members of the FADH guilty of repression and of stealing from the government.

The fourth point in the committee's proposals concerns cleanup of the public administration. Article 234 of the Constitution says that the Haitian public administration is the government's tool with which to clearly (?define) its mission and what it wants to do to guarantee that its administration will be effective. The public administration should therefore be headed by serious, competent people. Article 241 says the law provides sanctions against people who steal the government's money and people who become rich through embezzlement. It is the duty of civil servants who know such acts are being committed to inform the pertinent authorities. Article 242 says there are different ways to seek evidence against people who steal from the government. They can assume this is the case when a person's lifestyle becomes too costly compared to the way he lived before he began the job, and too costly for his salary on the job. The government must hasten to fire all civil servants who are not serious and who are incompetent, and also all civil servants stealing from the government. The judiciary must prosecute all civil servants suspected of embezzling. All honest and patriotic civil servants must denounce to the pertinent authorities any civil servants who are stealing from the government. [passage omitted]

Finally, the provisional government's job is to create conditions for proper free, honest, and democratic elections. The first condition for them is security—that is, to rid the country of all undercover detectives, thugs, red-armband-wearing criminals, and teams of hoodlums who have been shedding the Haitian people's blood since 1986. The second condition is to reinstate the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], because the Constitution did not give anyone the right to dissolve it.

With the Constitution lighting the way and with the machete of mobilization clearing the path, Haitian people, let us organize ourselves to advance along the path of freedom. Long live the 29 March demonstration.

(Rene Preval) signs for the Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution.

Ministry Sets Deadline for Return of Weapons

FL2903151690 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A communique from Justice Minister Joseph Maxi says that in application of the dispositions of the decree of 27 March putting an end to prefectures in Haiti, the Ministry of Interior asks all undercover detectives—men working for the prefectures who carry weapons—to take all weapons and ammunition in their possession to the police post nearest their homes, or the nearest police post (?if they have gone into) hiding, within 72 hours as of the date of publication of the communique. This communique was issued last night.

The ministry hopes the parties in question will understand why these measures have been taken and will turn in their weapons within the deadline. They expect these men to cooperate and not cause the police any problems, and to get the weapons and ammunition wherever they are stored and turn them over to the nearest police post.

The ministry also says that once the 72-hour deadline has expired, it will be the responsibility of the Haitian forces of order to effect searches wherever people who might have weapons in their possession are located, to recover these weapons and ammunition in the hands of

these undercover detectives. These detectives have had these weapons in their possession for some time now. Anyone who resists the searches by the forces of order aimed at recovering the weapons in the hands of these detectives will be arrested and taken to court for legal proceedings.

Activities Relating to 29 March Demonstration

MIDH Not To Support Event

FL2803192090 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpts] There is to be a demonstration against insecurity and in favor of democracy tomorrow, called by the Assembly for Concerted Action. [passage omitted] However, we must tell you that the MIDH, Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, which is also a member of the Assembly for Concerted Action, says it does not support this demonstration.

The Confederation for Democratic Unity, KID, asks the Haitian people to demonstrate throughout Haiti on 29 March to say no to repression, injustice, a high cost of living, macoutes, and murderers. [passage omitted] KID invites all patriots, all demonstrators, to carry red and blue flags to celebrate the unity of all partisans of democracy.

In Port-au-Prince the rendezvous is at 1000 in front of Saint Jean Bosco Church, Saint Bernadette Church in Martissant, and on Vaillant Street in Lalue. According to the KID press release, all these groups will come together in front of Port-au-Prince City Hall where different political leaders will talk. KID asks everyone to participate. [passage omitted]

MIDH Decides to Support Rally

FL2903195090 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], which had earlier refused to support the demonstration scheduled for 29 March, decided at the last minute to support it. In a press release issued 28 March, MIDH says the Reverend Father Antoine Adrien, coordinator of the Group of 12 and the Respect for the Constitution Committee, met with MIDH President Marc Louis Bazin. It was decided that a definitive agreement on the democratic pact proposed by the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress could be reached by 2 April at the latest.

MIDH, which had maintained reservations concerning its continued participation in the Assembly for Concerted Action, asks all its members and sympathizers to support the demonstration scheduled for 29 March, anniversary of the Constitution of 1987.

For its part, the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] has made public a letter it sent the Assembly for Concerted Action through Father Antoine Adrien. The letter informs the Assembly that the FADH accepts the 29 March demonstration.

The Military Department of the Metropolitan Zone says it received a letter sent on 26 March regarding the demonstration. In response, the Department informs the Assembly that it has no objections whatsoever to the demonstration or to the routes indicated in the letter. Nevertheless, it is the department's duty to remind the Assembly of the 23 July 1987 decree, Article 4, which states that the organizers of such a demonstration—those notifying the police—are held personally responsible for ensuring the proper conduct of the demonstrators.

12,000 Participate; No Incidents

FL2903221290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The time is 1233 and 55 seconds. Our brave reporters have returned home. [passage omitted] What is the story on the demonstration?

[Reporter Rothschild] The demonstration [of approximately 12,000 people] is officially over. Evans Paul, alias K. Plim, officially ended it in front of Port-au-Prince City Hall after the political leaders spoke denouncing macoutism and insecurity. However, there are still a few groups of demonstrators in the streets of the capital chanting slogans hostile to the macoutes, the soldiers of the Presidential Guard, and the undercover detectives. [passage omitted]

Haitian president Ertha Pascal Trouillot was represented at this demonstration by Social Affairs Minister Claudette Werleigh. Werleigh said the president wanted to join the crowd and participate in the demonstration but that the organizers prevented her from doing so for security reasons. Werleigh, who was sent by the president to represent her, also made statements against macoutism and announced the dissolving of the prefectures. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Clarens] [passage omitted] What I would like to point out is how disciplined the demonstration was. Arnold Antonin considers the demonstration a great success on the level of organization and participation. On the Bicentennaire was a barely perceptible police presence. The police made the rounds of the square and the Bicentennaire to guarantee the security of the demonstrators. They were not even carrying heavy-caliber weapons. [passage omitted] Fortunately there were no incidents, no disorder, at least relating to the rally, which has now ended. [passage omitted]

(?The main demands) concerned the high cost of living—demonstrators were asking that the cost of staples, at least, be lowered— and insecurity, that the Armed Forces and the government arrest the people implicated in acts of insecurity. They also demanded the judiciary

prosecute the criminals responsible for 29 November 1987. These slogans were written on the placards.

[Announcer] There were also names on the placards.

[Clarens] Yes, there were names written on the placards. And there were other slogans too, regarding for example, elections: We want elections but not phony elections in Haiti [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Father Aristide was also present at the demonstration. He feels no elections are possible without the macoute criminals' being brought to trial. [passage omitted]

[Clarens] I would also like to point out that for the first time in a demonstration—in any case in Port-au-Prince—political leaders today led the demonstrators. Hubert de Ronceray, Marc Bazin, Father Antoine Adrien, Gerard Philippe Auguste of the Movement for the Organization of the Country, Turneb Delpe, RDC [Christian Democratic Assembly] leader Eddy Volel, and many other leaders were present at the head of the demonstration and sometimes in the crowd. [passage omitted]

Government Appoints Three Media Directors

FL2903171790 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A press release from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination announces that by presidential commission, (Herold Jean-Francois) has been appointed general director of National Haitian Television, TNH; Ady Jean-Gardy has been appointed general director of National Haitian Radio; and Gary Victor has been appointed general director of the government newspaper L'UNION.

The ministry also announces that a management council will be created for all government media, and that the names of the members of this government media management council will soon be made public.

New Port Authority General Director Appointed

FL2803194990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] A press release from the Ministry of Information announces that the following appointments have been made by presidential decree. [passage omitted] Clorel Pierre-Louis has been appointed general director of the National Port Authority. [passage omitted]

New Public Prosecutor Appointed

FL2903000490 Port-au-Prince LE MATIN in French 28 Mar 90 No 28.922 pp 2, 3

[From the "Haiti and Today's World" column]

[Text] [headline] New Representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor

Attorney Bayard Vincent has been appointed representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor at the civil court of Port-au-Prince. He replaces attorney Gerard Arthur Delbeau.

El Salvador

Cristiani To Attend Presidential Summit in April

PA2903225690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2133 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Mar (ACAN - EFE)—The Salvadoran Government today confirmed that President Cristiani will attend the Central American presidential summit to be held in Managua on 2-3 April. The presidents will analyze the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran peace processes and other topics.

Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino has said that the presidents will review the Nicaraguan contra demobilization plan, the establishment of mechanisms for the political verification of the peace agreements, the signing of a cooperation agreement to eradicate drug trafficking in the area, and the creation of peace and cooperation zones.

The meeting will be attended by Presidents Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala, Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, Rafael Leonardo Callejas of Honduras, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, and Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

Regarding the summit, Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Valdivieso said: "We are happy to have the opportunity to be present at this summit. The full implementation of the peace plan is just around the corner for the countries of the region."

In a news conference, Valdivieso said that "the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) and the Cuban Government are the only ones in Latin America that oppose democracy."

Valdivieso said the summit "will be an opportunity for the outgoing Nicaraguan Government to refute comments about the possibility that it will not turn over total power to President-elect Violeta Chamorro on 25 April."

"It would be harmful for the image of the Central American peace process if the outgoing Nicaraguan Government decides not to transfer complete power to the new administration after such an elegant and praiseworthy display at the polls by the Nicaraguan people," the deputy foreign minister said.

Merino added, in the same news conference, that the two main issues that will be discussed by the presidents will be the demobilization of the contras and the presence of "international terrorists in El Salvador who have been receiving supplies from the Sandinist Government."

He pointed out that "Central America supports an effective verification of the suspension of the aid that Ortega has been sending to the Salvadoran terrorists."

"The government is interested, he said, in the establishment of a mechanism for the verification of political agreements and if it is necessary, the presence of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) observers will be increased for that purpose."

According to the Salvadoran deputy foreign minister, the resumption of the relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua "is guaranteed as soon as the Ortega government turns power over to Mrs. Chamorro."

El Salvador suspended its diplomatic and trade relations with Nicaragua on 26 November when it accused the Sandinist authorities of sending weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas, which a few days earlier had launched the biggest military offensive of the last decade.

The Salvadoran delegation that will participate in the summit will be headed by President Cristiani, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas, Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, and Defense Minister General Rafael Larios.

The delegation will leave for Managua on Monday, where it will remain until 4 April, when the summit is scheduled to end.

Army Voices Support for Cristiani Peace Efforts

PA3003043790 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0310 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces today expressed total support for the efforts of President Alfredo Cristiani to achieve peace in the country.

In a communique, the Defense Ministry expressed its firm determination to continue to support the democratic system, to protect the Constitution and the laws, to maintain the Army's apolitical nature and subordination, and to accompany Cristiani in his peace efforts. It added that in light of the Armed Forces being the first to be interested in overcoming the country's crisis, they seriously support the government's efforts to achieve peace through understanding. The communique added: We must all begin to speak a language that foments harmony among Salvadorans. We must begin actions that reduce polarization and increase opportunities for understanding and agreement.

Army Says FMLN Abandoning Weapons in Country

PA3003024590 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Mar 90 p 31

[Text] The Armed Forces intelligence services are analyzing the fact that FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists have abandoned weapons, ammunition, and other war supplies in several parts of the country.

This situation is attributed to the demoralization that prevails in the rank and file of subversive groups because of the events at world level and in the Central American region.

Twelve "booby traps," placed by FMLN terrorists along the road to Cerro El Maguey, in Concepcion Quezaltepeque, were defused by the military forces.

Troops from the 1st Military Detachment of Chalatenango were combing the area to locate and annihilate terrorists when they found the materials.

Military forces and security corps personnel are patrolling several fronts in Chalatenango Department.

They patrol rural sectors, highways, and urban zones to guarantee the citizens' security and possessions, and protect state assets.

It has also been reported that National Guard agents who were patrolling rural sectors of Colon, La Libertad Department, located six cases of TNT, 1,400 cartridges, three 60 mm mortar rounds, and other war supplies.

The discovery was made on the grounds of the Bello Horizonte farm in Colon. Alarm prevailed among the neighbors and authorities of Colon, resulting in comments on the possible presence of terrorists in the wooded sectors of that area.

Guatemala

Government-Rebel Meeting in Oslo Extended 1 Day

PA2903213390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1727 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Oslo, 29 Mar (DPA)—Leftist guerrillas and the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) of Guatemala today extended by an extra day a preliminary dialogue, which began in Oslo on 27 March, to establish peace negotiations under the auspices of the World Lutheran Federation and the Norwegian church.

The meeting was originally scheduled to end today, but well-informed sources in Oslo have revealed that talks between the CNR and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) was extended for an extra day.

Meeting observers told DPA that this extension could be interpreted as a positive sign in the development of the talks, the contents of which are being kept secret by agreement of the two parties.

According to observers, this extension of the preliminary meeting apparently means that representatives of both the guerrillas and CNR are making efforts to reconcile positions.

On 27 March, the URNG expressed satisfaction with the beginning of the dialogue.

The CNR is represented by Jorge Serrano Elias, member of the opposition Solidarity Action Movement [Movimiento de Accion Solidaria]; Mario Permouth, president of the Guatemalan Jewish Association's Central Committee; and Eduardo Villatoro, CNR executive secretary.

The URNG, which is comprised of diverse rebel organizations, is represented by physicians Luis Becker Guzman and Francisco Villagran Munoz (who are members of its political-diplomatic commission); and Jorge Rosal Melendez (member of the URNG permanent representation in Europe).

5 Soldiers Killed, 2 Wounded in Rebel Attack

PA2903152590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1423 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—It was officially announced today that five Guatemalan servicemen were killed and two others were wounded in a guerrilla attack carried out last night against an Army patrol base in Marimbas Hamlet, San Marcos Department.

The Army Press Office identified the soldiers who were killed as Specialists Pedro Bernabe Menchu and Nicolas Manuel Godinez, and Sergeant Miguel Tol Balcoz, Corporal Hilrio Chavez, and Private Victor Nicolas Gabriel Citalan.

After the rebel attack, during which rifles were used, Guatemalan Air Force (FAG) fighter planes and one military helicopter bombed the region's mountainous area.

An Army spokesman stated this morning that specialized troops are still combing the area where the attack took place.

The attack—conducted by a Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA) column—took place while delegates of the National Reconciliation Commission and leaders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) are holding meetings in Oslo to find channels that will lead to the end of the Guatemalan armed conflict, which has lasted 30 years.

Nicaragua

Contras Reportedly Returning To Avoid Disarmament

PA2903184690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1640 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—An anti-Sandinist source confirmed today that hundreds of armed contras are leaving their camps in Honduras and returning to Nicaragua to avoid being forced to disarm immediately under international control.

Alejandro Acevedo, spokesman for the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN), told ACAN-EFE that "most of those returning are peasants who are taking their weapons with them to defend themselves from Sandinist violence."

The spokesman said that "they cannot be forced to stay because they have a right to decide their own fate."

Most of the anti-Sandinist repatriates are heading for Central Zelaya, Chontales, and Jinotega Departments, where substantial contra "task forces" operate.

Acevedo asserted that the forces entering Nicaragua "have no offensive plans, but are prepared to repel any Sandinist attack with their weapons."

The contras' departure point is Yamales, the RN's military citadel located inside Honduran territory, 14 km from the Nicaraguan border. "The ones who are staying in Yamales are civilians and victims of the war who are urgently in need of international assistance to start anew," Acevedo asserted.

In this regard, Honduran opposition leaders have warned that the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) may not find weapons or fighters when the operation to disarm the contras begins in April.

ONUCA, which is made up of 600 military and civilian members, has an official mandate to take charge of carrying out the demobilization but has not received a single weapon since its arrival in December.

Jorge Illescas, top leader of the social democratic Innovation and Unity Party, said that "there is no doubt that ONUCA must speed up the performance of its role. It would not do any good if there are no contras in Honduras but the armed conflict continues in Nicaragua."

Illescas pointed out to ACAN-EFE that "the return of armed anti-Sandinists without any control violates the agreement signed on Friday in Tegucigalpa, which orders the demobilization of the contras and leaves a regional hotbed of tension alive."

Until February, the contras had 8,000 men in Honduran territory and 4,000 inside Nicaragua. These figures have been changing during the last few weeks.

Contra Chief of Staff Endorses Demobilization

PA2903194590 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Mar 90 p 7

[Statement issued by Nicaraguan Resistance Chief of Staff Israel Galeano, a.k.a. Franklin, in Yamales on 29 March]

[Text] The undersigned, chief of staff of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Army, once more faces the manipulation and lies of the totalitarian government in Managua and finds himself compelled to reiterate declarations supporting and endorsing the Toncontin Agreement.

Because of circumstances beyond his control, the undersigned could not participate in such a historical moment in Honduras, given an important mission which was recently carried out in several states of the United States.

Whoever has followed the sequence of RN statements throughout 1990 will find that the Nicaraguan insurgents have always advocated an end to the war and have always supported civic options which spare the bloodshed, sorrow, and tears of all our people. The Indian and peasant insurgents we represent were forced to use violence to reject the violence resulting from the state's totalitarian aggression. We have said it before and we repeat it today: We are not warmongerers. We are simply people from the rural areas who took up weapons to defend themselves and the nation.

Thus, it is not strange that we prefer a victory of the vote, the civilized dialogue, and the appropriate negotiations, provided they are the firm bases to begin the construction of peace, democracy, and reconciliation in the country.

The undersigned chief of staff has always been kept informed by Commander Ruben, the chief RN negotiator, and all the General Staff about the proposals presented during the dialogue with the new democratic government in Managua. Upon learning the contents of the Toncontin Agreement, the undersigned stated his endorsement of and satisfaction with the agreement during several appearances before the U.S. media.

Therefore, we want to unmask another maneuver of the armed party that was rejected by the people when it tried to imply that a disagreement prevailed among the members of the RN General Staff.

We have reiterated to Commander Ruben and the negotiating team our trust, our satisfaction, and our endorsement of the agreements reached on 23 March.
Yamales, Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory, 29 March 1990.
Israel Galeano
Commander Franklin
RN Chief of Staff

Yatama Indian Group Agrees To Demobilize

PA3003003890 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2326 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Office of President-Elect Violeta de Chamorro in Managua on 29 March]

[Text] The Press and Information Office of President-elect Violeta de Chamorro reports to the Nicaraguan people the following:

On 29 March 1990, the Rio Coco Agreement was signed between representatives of the Nicaraguan government-elect represented by Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren and Jaime Cuadra Somarriba, and the staff of Yatama, the Indian group of the Atlantic coast, represented by (Osorno Coleman), alias Commander Blas; (Samuel Gibler), Commander Mono; Benigno Martinez, Commander Cancer; and (Centurion Nike), Commander Kuskawa.

According to the Rio Coco Agreement, which was signed through the good offices of Dr. Jose Antonio Tijerino Medrano, representative of His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, Yatama promises to begin the process of general demobilization of its armed forces, beginning with the disarmament of those still in Honduras, at the latest on 20 April, and requests the cooperation and aid of the international organizations ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] and the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification].

Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro expresses satisfaction with the signing of this agreement, which strengthens the process of orderly and peaceful transition to the new government and which is one more important step toward Nicaragua's total pacification.

President Ortega Discusses Electoral Defeat

PY2903130990 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 19-25 Mar 90 p 50-52

["Exclusive" interview with President Daniel Ortega by Gladys Diaz in Santiago on 10-11 March]

[Text] [Diaz] How did the Sandinists take the electoral defeat?

[Ortega] When we ousted Somoza we did not think we would stay in power forever. We wanted to establish the basis of a democracy that Nicaragua never had—solid, aligned with Third World countries. We did not propose to develop a program such as the East European countries have. We wanted a different kind of democracy. This is why the Sandinists' electoral defeat is part of a process we support. The revolution did not lose the election. We proposed this revolutionary process in a government junta meeting back in 1979. That is why we had elections in 1984. We wanted people to express themselves, we wanted all sectors to participate. We invited the Coordination [Nicaraguan Democratic Coordination], the group of businessmen and political parties that the United States sponsored, to complement in the political field the military action that the counterrevolution was carrying out in the military field. We wanted to stop fighting a war and begin fighting for electoral results. The U.S. Government discouraged the Coordination from participating in the electoral process so as not to legitimize the revolutionary process.

[Diaz] You were elected in 1984. Your government approved the legal framework establishing a very singular Nicaraguan model in which the very important questions of the Army and Interior Ministry situation were established. Is it not so?

[Ortega] That was when we had the National Constituent Assembly to approve the new Constitution. This Constitution sanctioned a multiparty system, a mixed economy, and a nonaligned position in the international field. The Constitution determined that the Popular Army and the Interior Ministry must be at the service of popular and national interests. The same thing occurs with the nationalization of the country's resources, the banking system, and our exports. These topics cannot be changed by the government that takes over on 25 April because it does not have the votes in the Assembly that are necessary to modify the Constitution. According to this Constitution, elections were to be called for November 1990. We brought the election date forward in an attempt to end the war, because that was what most Nicaraguans wanted. We knew we would not participate in the election on just and equal terms with the opposition because our opponent was the United States and they kept saying that a vote for the Sandinists was a vote for the continuation of the war and our economic difficulties, while a vote for the opposition implied solving both problems.

[Diaz] How did the Nicaraguan people know which message was from whom? What did the messages say?

[Ortega] Sandinists as well as Violeta Chamorro told the people that everything was going to improve after the election. The difference was that people knew that when Sandinists said things would improve we were talking about the long term and that we would probably continue to face difficulties in the near future. The people knew that the immediate solution was with the other option. They had the key to end the war. We had a people socially and economically tired after 10 years of struggle. They voted under pressure and blackmail, as if they had a pistol pointed at their heads. They knew that the war was going to continue if they voted for us. This has to remain very clear: people voted for peace, for social harmony, not for the counterrevolution.

[Diaz] Commander Ortega, during the last rally closing your campaign you said that you had just read a passage from the Bible in which God appears to Solomon in a dream and offers to fulfill all his wishes. In the passage Solomon answers: "Grant this, your servant, an understanding heart to pass judgment on your people, to be able to discern between good and evil, because your people are too great to pass judgment on them." Do you continue to feel represented by that passage after the election result?

[Ortega] You have to understand that the 41 percent who voted for us did so wondering: "I vote for the social majority and for peace, with dignity." Then there is the other group who said: "I vote for peace and social improvement, with pragmatism." Idealism was confronted with pragmatism. The 41 percent contains a high degree of conscience that Nicaragua today has something we did not have at the time of the revolution, because it is quite different to join a liberation process in the midst of a bloody dictatorship than to support a process when you have to carry the cross every day.

We also have to make a clear evaluation of those who voted for UNO [National Opposition Union] because we think 30 percent of the people who voted for them did so out of desperation and under the psychological pressure of the Bush Administration's offers. If the United States had suffered an aggression similar to the one they imposed on us, and in proportion to their population, they would have had some two million victims including a million dead. The United States has not suffered this number of casualties ever, not even if we add up its casualties from all its wars. We are a small country that has suffered more than any other in Latin America. I remember Castro saying, when the "contra" activity began, that our problem was that Nicaragua had to go through a "Giron" every day, referring to the Giron beach invasion of Cuba which was resolved in a single battle.

[Diaz] What is the difference between the Nicaraguan and other Latin American democracies?

[Ortega] When we decided we needed something different we also decided we needed deep changes and the tools for society to continue developing and perfecting democracy. To continue on the basis of self-determination, sovereignty, national independence, and the institutionalization of a popular Army and police to guarantee people's life and security; to defend our territorial integrity and to be well prepared to avoid repressing or attacking our own people. When we decided to support the multiparty system we admitted that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] was a party and that we could lose an election, all else would be incoherent.

Now we will go through another experience which will also enrich us. In the past we waged an underground fight. We then stayed in power for 11 years, facing another type of danger. Now we will be in the opposition, but in a revolutionary state.

We will engage in critical, constructive opposition, seeking to end the war and to increase production. We will join the government of Violeta Chamorro to ask the world for economic help, because the people are suffering from shortages, the lack of infrastructure, and the lack of liquidity. We are showing a new ethical attitude to the world, and Nicaragua will show that this is possible.

Now that socialist models are falling down, we are modestly building this new model of transformation. We never supported dogmatism or rigid systems, not even when we were not as politically experienced as we are now.

Neither do we believe that socialism is dead. There isn't just one single type of socialism. There is socialism in West Europe. Sandinism advocates the defense of sovereignty and socioeconomic transformation. This is also socialism.

After 25 April, we will continue to strengthen our country with a democratic model which is neither like those of East European countries nor those of democratic Latin American countries. We are submitting the Sandinist revolution to the hardest test.

We outlined our project long before the beginning of perestroyka. Whenever I am asked whether we were influenced by perestroyka, I reply that there is always the possibility that East European countries may have changed because of what we did in Nicaragua.

[Diaz] President Ortega, what was your reaction, as a human being, to your defeat? What will you do in the future?

[Ortega] Contrary to what has been said, I was not embittered. I have gone through much more difficult experiences, which cannot compare to what happened on 25 February. As I said early on that day, when I was young I never imagined I would some day hold the nation's highest position. During the campaign I made an all out effort to win.

I was always aware, however, that our 10 years in power have eroded us. I cannot deny that even after the first election returns, which were negative for us and which outlined a trend, I still harbored secret hopes that the situation would change later.

I began, however, to prepare my fellow party members for a defeat. Now I feel happy and proud to contribute to the consolidation of the Nicaraguan democratic process and to have disproved those who did not believe in our devotion for democracy, those who still doubt that we will hand over power on 25 April—because we will hand over power on that date.

As a former president I am entitled to a seat in the National Assembly, but I do not think I will attend any sessions because I feel there is a lot that needs to be done in the neighborhoods, the factories, and the peasant settlements—where the popular power lies. I almost feel relief at leaving the presidency and going to the opposition. I am pleased to accept the challenge of proving that the revolution is not lost, that we only lost an election.

[Diaz] What do you think were FSLN's and government's mistakes that affected the election result, that is, the causes that cannot be attributed to the war or to foreign aggression?

[Ortega] There are many things to analyze. I believe that the war required an organization within the FSLN and the government that were in contradiction with the Sandinist revolution proposals in the economic and social fields. The war that was imposed on us forced us to take measures to defend our national interests. Another factor could have been not knowing how to work with the peasant populations in border areas. They were submitted to a lot of "Contra" pressure and were forced to cooperate with them. The government considered them to be a "contra" sector and they reacted by opposing the Sandinist Army and government. There was also a lot of rigidity in our methods, and a lack of communication between government officials and the population regarding our economic policies. People complained about government officials' lack of tact. Bank employees were not really sensitive to small farmers who received credit. Sometimes they even showed a lack of respect. The economic policy we applied in 1989 to save the economy and to strengthen the exporting agricultural sector created much tension among the population and no favorable response from the entrepreneurial sector that benefited from it. Agricultural exporters sabotaged the economic policy instead of supporting it. We were not able to create a common front to face the grave economic and financial situation. There are many other things that we could add to the list.

[Diaz] Commander Ortega, you, your brother Humberto, the defense minister, and your brother Camilo who died during the Monimbo neighborhood insurrection, were famous in high school. You had a nickname, didn't you?.

(ANALISIS editor's note: The Nicaraguan president suddenly loses his formal look and bursts out laughing. This happens just before the end of the interview because Ortega opens the door to get out of the car to go to a CEPAL [Economic Commission for Latin America] meeting where he will participate as an honored guest. His face lights up when he recalls his teenage years, when they were preparing to become their people's leaders.)

[Ortega] We were called "the Daggers." The story goes that Humberto and Camilo had long noses and people teased them that their noses were like daggers. The nickname was later extended to the three of us because we always won group fights, and very few colleagues dared to challenge us.

Comparison of Protocol on Transfer of Power

PA2903173190

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 28 March on page 5 publishes the 1,800-word "text" of the protocol on procedures for the transfer of presidential power issued in Managua, Nicaragua on 27 March. The BARRICADA version of the protocol has been compared with the Managua Radio Sandino Spanish version published in the 29 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 27 and 28, revealing the following variation:

Page 27, column two, paragraph two, sentence one reads: The transition team appointed by President of the Republic Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution, which is headed by Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra and includes Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman and Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo, along with the transition team appointed by President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, which is headed by Eng. Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren and includes Eng. Carlos Hurtado Cabrera and Luis Sanchez Sancho, have agreed to sign the following:

Protocol on procedures (supplying portion not broadcast and changing paragraphing).

Page 28, from column one, last paragraph, only sentence reads: governments are established.

These subcommissions will work in the following areas:

a. Economic Planning and Fiscal Finances Area:

For the outgoing government: Dr. Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, Dr. William Hupper Arguello.

For the incoming government: Dr. Francisco Mayorga, Eng. Enrique Dreyfus, Dr. Jose Ernesto Somarriba, Dr. Guillermo Potoy, Dr. Leonel Rodriguez.

b. Foreign Cooperation Area:

For the outgoing government: Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, Eng. Pedro Antonio Blandon Lanzas.

For the incoming government: Dr. Francisco Mayorga, Eng. Enrique Dreyfus, Dr. Jose Ernesto Somarriba, Dr. Guillermo Potoy, Dr. Leonel Rodriguez.

c. Agrarian and Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform Area:

For the outgoing government: Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, Eng. Salvador Mayorga Sacasa.

For the incoming government: Eng. Roberto Rondon, Dr. Carlos Mantica, Eng. Ramiro Gurdian, Eng. Jaime Cuadra, Dr. Jose Pallais.

d. Industry and Commerce Area:

For the outgoing government: Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, guerrilla commander Ramon Cabrales.

For the incoming government: Eng. Dayton Caldera, Eng. Raul Solorzano, Eng. Guillermo Quant, Dr. Jaime Bengoechea, Dr. Alfredo Mendieta, Dr. Reynaldo Hernandez, Dr. Juan Lopez, Dr. Mario Rappaccioli, Dr. Wilfredo Navarro, Dr. Jeronimo Sequeira.

e. Infrastructure and Services Area:

For the outgoing government: Guerrilla commander Mauricio Valenzuela, Eng. Emilio Rapaccioli Baltodano.

For the incoming government: Eng. Agustin Jarquin, Eng. Gilberto Cuadra, Eng. Alberto Marin, Eng. Mario Montenegro, Eng. Pablo Vigil.

f. Social Area:

For the outgoing government: Father Fernando Cardenal Martinez, guerrilla commander Dora Maria Tellez.

For the incoming government: Dr. Ernesto Salmeron, Dr. Andres Zuniga, Dr. Silviano Matamoros, Dr. Leopoldo Navarro, Dr. Manuel Matus Sequeira.

g. Foreign Relations Area:

For the outgoing government: Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Comrade Victor Hugo Tinoco.

For the incoming government: Dr. Alvaro Chamorro, Dr. Arnoldo Aleman, Eng. Jose Cuadra, Mrs. Luz Marina Smith, Dr. Ivan Madriz.

2. Beginning with the (supplying additional material).

Panama

Endara Interviewed on Pardon Plans

PA2903195590 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1338 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with President Guillermo Endara Galimany by Mayin Correa during "The Word Over Continente" program in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Correa] We will now feature President Guillermo Endara Galimany, the president who was elected by the Panamanian people with a very high percentage of votes and to whom we feel entitled to say what we like, and what we dislike, too, because we say many good things about his personality and about his kind heart. We love him very much, but we will also criticize you, Mr President. I am...

[Endara, interrupting] It is because of this that, as president, I am strongly committed to respecting freedom of speech. That is why, from the very beginning, every time anyone asked me about a honeymoon with the press and the radio, I said I had no marriage with any communicator, and therefore I did not feel anybody had a commitment with me to maintain a honeymoon. So, I respect and defend the right to criticize the president of the Republic. I believe this will make me a better president.

However, I do want to place what I understand by reconciliation in the proper perspective. I must say, to begin with, that I am not referring to reconciliation just now. I have been talking about reconciliation since the election campaign. It is true that I have talked of justice, and I stand by that. During my speech before the Panamanian clergy I talked about justice first. I said reconciliation did not exclude justice; there should be reconciliation with justice. Therefore, the two things are not incompatible. On the contrary, they are perfectly compatible. What we must determine is with whom the reconciliation will be.

[Correa] That is right, Mr. President.

[Endara] What I wish to tell you in the first place is that reconciliation is a commitment I have to the people, because I raised this point during the political campaign and the first thing I did after 20 December was to name this government a government of reconstruction and reconciliation. Therefore, my commitment to the people includes reconciliation.

Now then, with whom will the reconciliation be? It will be reconciliation regarding crimes that are strictly political. I have used a very clear example. It is the example of the 60 nincompoops who signed the decree in which, on 1 September 1989, they elected the president we had before, Mr. Francisco Rodriguez. Those 60 men carried out a strictly political act, for which a penalty exists under the Penal Code. It is punishable according to the Penal Code. However, they did not cause any physical damage or steal a single cent through that action. If there are other punishable actions involved, then let them be tried for those actions.

I have referred only to strictly political actions. I have not talked about pardoning murderers. That is why I resent the communique issued by Gilberto Arias [one of the owners of EL PANAMA AMERICA newspaper], in which he says that I am talking about pardoning crimes ranging from murder to abuse of authority. I have never talked about that. I have never referred to that. I also resent Arias' communique where it says that I am forgetting about those killed in Piedra Candela and Las Huacas of [place name indistinct]. I remember them very well. I have visited their relatives and constantly receive them. With my own funds I have financed the search for the bones of those Panamanian martyrs, and I am going to launch a drive to build a monument to them. Their deaths can never be forgotten. None of them, especially Dorita Moreno, who is a heroine of our homeland, can be forgotten. I can never be accused of forgetting them.

I deeply resent it when people say that I am forgetting them and that I am pardoning the crime that was committed against them. I also deeply resent it when people say that I am training executioners for the Panamanian people. That is not so at all. Gilberto Arias also asks me in that editorial that I remember the slogan an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, followed by the military. I am not going to forget that. I am not going to forget that the military used the slogan an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, because I am a Christian and not a hypocrite. When I go to the cathedral I do not do so hypocritically. I accept that Christian doctrine which abolished the principle of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and that is why I propose a pardon. I know that as president of the Republic I have many other obligations that do not allow me to be constantly talking about pardoning. That is why I have asked the Catholic Church, which follows Christ's doctrines and promulgates pardons, to propose to the Panamanian people definite acts of reconciliation. I know that the Catholic Church is not going to propose that criminals be forgiven; it is not going to propose forgiving those who have stolen either from the government or from other people. We are discussing strictly political crimes. We are not talking about assassins, torturers, thieves, or anyone like that, because those cases have to be processed through the judicial system and this is up to the judicial branch, not the president.

[Correa] Mr. President....

[Endara, interrupting] Excuse me if I (?have overextended myself)...

[Correa, interupting] No, no, not at all. What happens is that...

[Endara, interrupting] This strikes my innermost feelings. I believe that we should have reconcilition in Panama in cases where it is appropiate, but always within the law. .

[Correa] The misinterpretation which both CRITICA LIBRE newspaper and myself could have given your call for reconciliation is because you were not specific. The people and I understand reconciliation to be a word used when people are being persecuted for political crimes, and we do not see anyone being persecuted for political crimes here. Only yesterday I saw former President Solis Palma.

[Endara] Oh yes, Mayin. Do you remember the 60 persons who signed the decree appointing Francisco Rodriguez president? Do you remember there were over 60 officials at a State Council meeting? There are many whose only crime was to have signed that document. The signing of that document is clearly defined as a crime in the Penal Code, but it is strictly a political crime that I believe harmed no one whatsoever.

[Correa] Mr. President, if you had only said that yesterday, I believe no one would have misinterpreted you. If you had specifically explained the cases you are referring to, we could have seen that these are clear-cut cases that explain why you are calling for reconciliation, according to the arguments you put forth...

[Endara, interrupting] Excuse me Mayin, yesterday I specifically mentioned the case of these 60 in my speech.

[Correa] Did you?

[Endara] I spoke about that. I also said that reconciliation did not exclude justice.

[Correa] Something else is happening among those of us who were direct victims of the dictatorship that vented its cruelty against the Panamanian people. I specifically refer to former Justice and Government Minister Mr. Popito Chiari. Here we have someone with lots of money—perhaps not so much political power, but plenty of money—and it has been three months, or two and a half months, since an arrest warrant was issued against this man for having shut down independent media and taking away from the people the right to know the truth. This forced journalists to lose their jobs and owners to lose great amounts of money. No one has asked these media owners how much money they lost after being closed down for two years. Is it true that Chiari cannot be found here in Panama?

[Endara] Mayin, I do not know why that person has not been detained. An arrest warrant has been issued. You are presuming that he is in hiding. During the dictatorship, which maintained iron-clad control and offered no freedom, I was able to successfully hide for several months. I know many people who hid for six months.

With a regime guaranteeing freedom, it is easier to hide. I believe that it is possible that this man is well-hidden because there are ways to hide without being detected. I do not know why he has not been detained. I presume it is because he is in hiding. The fact that he has not been detained yet does not imply that he is being pardoned for anything. Quite the contrary, I know that a warrant for his arrest has been issued.

[Correa] Mr. President, I have the impression that because the Legislative Assembly has not made any appointments or confirmed the attorney general that the administration of justice is moving slowly; cases that have affected society the most are being held up by the pending confirmation of the attorney general. That is my impression.

[Endara] Yes. I think that those who say justice is slow should consider several factors. First of all, we must remember that the Attorney General's Office was completely in shambles when we assumed power and appointed Rogelio Cruz as the attorney general. The new attorney general had to practically reorganize the entire office with the personnel available. He also has an enormous workload. He has informed us of his budget problems, which we are trying to solve.

In a democratic system, a defendant must be given all guarantees, which had been denied to us previously by the dictatorship. We did not have the right to a defense, and when we went to the prosecutor's office, we were practically condemned before we got there. That we cannot do because it is against our principles. We will give the accused the rights that were denied to us because we are true democrats who believe in liberty. We believe that people's rights must be respected. If someone is charged with a crime, that crime must be proved, and the individual has a right to defend himself. By defending the rights of those vagabonds, we are defending our own rights because we never know if someone will accuse us in the future. The day someone accuses me, I want to have the right to defend myself. Am I being clear, Mayin?

[Correa] Yes, it is perfectly clear. Mr. President, regarding your reference to political cases, such as the 60 individuals who signed the appointment of...

[Endara, interrupting] There is one thing I would like to clarify. The idea of appointing a commission of high moral reputation was conceived in order to allow the commission to tell us, the government and the people, what we must do to achieve a reconciliation. If the commission recommends that other cases be included, it will be a moral decision of each citizen and the president. I do not want ....[changes thought] I am giving you my opinion. I want that commission to have broad authority to propose to all of the people and the government what we must do to bring about reconciliation. We cannot walk forward looking back. We must move our country ahead because we have an enormous task ahead. Our economy is in ruins and we must restore it. We cannot leave our children and grandchildren a bankrupt and destroyed country. We must work and move forward; we cannot move forward looking at the past or we will fall. Therefore, we should leave it up to the attorney general and organizations and people who have influence on the

public, like you, to point out those past actions so that justice can be assured. No one wants to prevent justice.

Justice must be served here. However, I have an obligation to move the country forward with all of my ministers. With all the help I have, I firmly believe that I have a first-class team. We must look to the future. We cannot continue looking to the past or thinking that someone did this or that.

We must find a way to bequeath to our children a prosperous country that offers jobs. You cannot imagine how much I suffer when crowds of people approach me asking for jobs, thinking that because I am president of the republic I can provide an unlimited number of positions. There are many people who are destitute because they do not know where their next meal is coming from.

[Correa] Mr. President, I do not know...

[Endara, interrupting] The president of the Republic must worry about this. The president of the Republic cannot look backward. He cannot worry about the fact that Popito Rodolfo Chiari is in hiding, that Fito Duque is here or there, or that a former member of Panama Defense Forces' staff was released—if he was released, it must have been for a sound judicial reason. I do not know why he was released. However, I cannot spend time on this.

[Correa] Mr. President, that should not be your concern, but it concerns the media. We must point out these things. I am resentful because I had to leave the country for two years; my family's home was raided; my relatives were detained; we all suffered; we lost everything and the person who authorized this is at large. I resent this very much. Pardon me, but I will continue to denounce this man until he is arrested.

[Endara] You are right, Mayin...

[Correa, interrupting] Until he is arrested, Mr. President. You need not denounce this, but I will. I will do that, and I also resent...

[Endara, interrupting] You have the right to denounce this and criticize me, Mayin. Even though you criticize me, our great friendship and the affection I have for you will not be affected.

[Correa] Mr. President, I do not understand why you are saying that the country is persecuting anyone. I do not see any persecution; the fact that I am urging people to arrest these criminals is not persecution.

[Endara] No, no, no, for example, all of the newspapers, the entire media has jumped on me because on 28 March I said that I might pardon the 60 nincompoops who signed that decree. They are immature people who inspire pity for having signed a document that the dictator proposed. These are people who acted like well-behaved children because they were subjugated by the dictator. How can we jail these people for an action that had no major repercussions, other than political ones? These people did not harm anybody.

How can we....[changes thought] There is also talk about jailing the 510 representatives who signed that shameful decree naming Noriega leader or whatever. How can we jail 510 people for a strictly political reason? I believe that we would be overdoing our efforts to seek revenge against people who were not mature enough to oppose the bad dictatorship when it was clear that it was a bad.

[Correa] Mr. President, I agree that we must look to the future and that we need political reconciliation. People who do not agree with you can form their own political opposition group because this is part of democracy. However, I do not see and the world does not see this [changes thought] reporters who visit our country say what a peaceful country you have. People threw a garbage can at former legislator Rigoberto Paredes at the Attorney General's Office and you showed up to stop them. They have never showed up again.

I have run into people who prevented me from leaving my home for three months. I saw one of them and said hello. A policeman came here yesterday, a Doberman [former anti-riot police], to request aid because 250 of them have not been paid in six weeks.

[Endara] I congratulate you...

[Correa, interrupting] I am defending them, although the Dobermans nearly killed me. We Panamanians are like this, Mr President. These people are not being persecuted. The fact that I have urged, over the radio, the arrest of those who abused us so much is being called persecution...

[Endara, interrupting] And you are completely right about that...

[Correa, interrupting] Nobody has spat on anyone here, Mr President. The dictatorship is over. You were beaten with clubs, and so many people shed blood and died, but nobody has spat on anyone. On 28 March, I nearly tripped over Solis Palma, who had terrorized me, my family, and many other people. He had said so many stupid things, and harmed us so much with the United States, and so on. There is no persecution; we are the noblest people of all, sir.

Everytime I read the human rights book published by the commission, I see all these people—the picture in which you are drenched in blood is also in it—I see the hands of a woman who had the word Yankee written on them, I see the injured bodies of several of my friends, like Olimpo Saenz, and I see those abuses. Nevertheless, we have not cast a stone against those of the dictatorshp.

Quite the contrary, they are there at the assembly, in the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]. They meet with government guests, present their opinions, own three newspapers, and have radio stations. Popito Chiari's station is operating, and there is talk that it will be sold. In sum, Mr President, I do not see anyone suffering,

except those of us who are now reconstructing our lives because we lost everytime. In other words, we are suffering the most...

[Endara, interrupting] You are right about all that. However, my concern is that people would believe that we must persecute all these, pardon the word, idiots who lent themselves strictly for political actions. This is what I have been referring to. I do want this opinion to restrict in any way the commission that I will ask Monsignor McGrath to head, because I believe that he is free of political passion and will choose, I believe, commission members who are not moved by political passion. These members will propose to me, as their president, and to the people actions that could be far reaching.

I believe that we must listen to these moral leaders that we have in the country. I believe that we have an obligation to listen to them and comply with their suggestions as much as possible. I am sure they can convince us of many things.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Ends Visit

PA3003013090 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2325 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] At the conclusion of his three-day visit to Panama, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto this afternoon called for Latin American unity without isolation or reprisals.

[Begin Madrigal recording] I am sure Costa Rica's policy of support for democracy will always exist in any Costa Rican government. Costa Rica is a country that lives in democracy, loves democracy, and seriously and firmly practices democracy, regardless of any political differences. There is also a great relationship between the new Government of Costa Rica, which can be described as Christian Democratic, and a large segment of the Panamanian Government. I have not found in any Latin American country a policy of aggression against Panama. I have spoken with some Latin American foreign ministers on various occasions to urge them to strengthen their relations with Panama. I have done this in a most respectful manner because they are the only ones who can decide their policy and I do not have any influence over them, with the exception of our ties of friendship and the fact that we are professionals in the diplomatic arena. [end recording]

Referring to the Public Force, the Costa Rican foreign minister said that Panama does not need to create an army to defend the canal.

[Begin Madrigal recording] Under the currenct circumstances, we cannot ask a country like Panama, which has recently experienced a tragic situation, to make dramatic and significant changes. I think plans have to be drawn up so as to gradually establish police, basically a police force, that will provide citizens with the necessary security, order, and respect. At this time we cannot even think of an action—which might even be called demagogic—to dissolve and completely eliminate the forces that currently exist. That would create great risks for the security of citizens. [end recording]

Two Killed in Shootout Near Colombian Border

PA2903190290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1739 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] There was an exchange of gunfire this morning at Puerto Obaldia, near the Colombian border, which left two persons dead and one missing. According to preliminary reports, one of the persons killed was a member of the Public Forces, but he has not yet been identified. The other person killed was a Colombian.

Argentina

Cavallo Reports to Congress on Talks With UK

PY2903134390 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2248 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (DYN)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today revealed that Great Britain "in a very short time" will lift the protection zone around the Malvinas Islands. Cavallo added that "a lot of work has been done" to resume direct communication links between Argentina and the islanders.

Cavallo said: "The islanders, the Kelpers, up until now have categorically refused to agree that Argentina and the United Kingdom could reestablish communication links between the islands and the continent, but this in no way should be interpreted as a sign of self-determination."

At noon today the foreign minister met with members of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee to brief them on the agreements with the United Kingdom that were signed in Madrid last February.

In the afternoon, the foreign minister held a news conference where he reiterated what he told the legislators, adding that on 4 April Argentina will sign an agreement in Luxembourg establishing the framework for economic and trade cooperation with the EC.

Cavallo made these remarks shortly before departing for Mexico to meet with the foreign ministers of the Group of Rio—formerly known as the Group of Eight—to determine the Group's future.

During his meeting with the deputies headed by Saturnino Aranda, head of the foreign affairs committee, Cavallo answered questions linked to the Malvinas Islands question. Representatives of all party blocs in Congress were present: Oscar Alende, Luis Zamora and Jose Maria Ibarbia, as well as former foreign minister Dante Caputo.

Cavallo began the meeting with a summary of the agreements that Argentina signed with London in October of last year and in February of this year that are known as "the Madrid agreements." Cavallo said that Argentina's strategy to rebuild relations "consists of progress without force, but with patience."

In answer to a legislator's question Cavallo emphatically denied that the future ambassador to the United Kingdom "had to be a career diplomat in answer to Great Britain's demand."

"Argentina will exercise its sovereign right to designate whomever it deems most convenient," the minister said.

Asked about the military bases in the islands, Cavallo said that Argentina "has never stopped talking" about dismantling them.

Cavallo said the official declaration on the end of hostilities "is the best argument that the United Kingdom has to reconsider the dismantling of those bases, particularly because English public opinion is increasingly against the great burden the bases place on the public treasury."

Regarding the Argentine patrols of the area near the islands, Cavallo said they are being implemented "with realism, that is, avoiding incidents that could only hurt the process of negotiations."

Cavallo said: "We have to understand, for once and for all, that Argentina lost the war and that the English took possession of the islands, militarily as well as with all kinds of resources; from the essential settlements in the area to the rights they exercised immediately after the conflict in those waters."

Regarding fishing in the area, Cavallo said that Argentine seagoing vessels operate "without restrictions in the area." Cavallo then praised the fishing agreements with Moscow "as an example of the sovereignty Argentina exercises in the area."

Cavallo said that the new contracts with the Soviet Union contemplate "a 400 percent increase compared to what they paid before."

"Now the Soviet Union must pay a 12-percent fishing tax amounting to $6 million a year. The money will be used in research on area resources and on patrols," the minister said.

In the afternoon news conference Cavallo said that for the time being the incorporation of Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Bolivia into the Group of Rio is not convenient.

Cavallo said that their acceptance should be by consensus adding that some economic matters are better discussed through ALADI (Latin American Integration Association).

The eight members of the group—minus Panama which is still suspended for political reasons—plus representatives of the other four countries that are not yet members, will be represented at the forum. Cavallo said that before increasing the number of participants in the Group of Rio it was more important to "strengthen other existing entities" such as the OAS and the SELA (Latin American Economic System).

Asked about the agreement with the EC, Cavallo said that "its contents and declarations are more encompassing than any other agreement signed by the organization with a nonassociated developing country."

Cavallo Announces Foreign Ministry Cutbacks

PY2903174990 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Mar p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo announced yesterday that his ministry would be closing down five embassies and six consulates, including Punta del Este, eliminating 27 of its 59 offices and cutting the number of diplomats posted overseas from 644 to 522. Overall staff will be cut from 1,943 to 1,376.

A further 117 career diplomats would be retired while advisor would be limited to four for the minister and three for each undersecretary. The halving of ambasadorial pay was also being considered, Cavallo said.

Some 10 million dollars will be saved by scrapping the Argentine embassies in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Consulates facing the chop include Lisbon, Baltimore, Kobe, Venice and Cadiz as well as Punta del Este. Argentina will further be withdrawing its special mission at the international disarmament conference without breaking off relations.

Earlier in the day Cavallo briefed the Lower House on the British exclusion zone around the Malvinas, which will be lifted on Saturday, and also informed congressmen about the renegotiated fishing treaties with the Soviet Union, which will now bring in six million dollars annually on the basis of 12 percent licence fees.

Cavallo dodged a question from his Radical predecessor Dante Caputo on British patrolling around the islands.

Foreign Minister Cavallo Departs for Mexico

PY2903164990 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0253 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo left for Mexico tonight to meet with the "Group of Seven or of Rio." During the meeting, they will review future strategy, bearing in mind the incorporation of new foreign ministers [as received].

Shortly before boarding the airplane, Cavallo made remarks at Ezeiza International Airport. Asked about his upcoming meeting with the British foreign minister, Cavallo said: "This is an important meeting because it will be the first meeting between the foreign ministers of Argentina and the United Kingdom after the Malvinas conflict."

Cavallo added: "We will talk about the implementation of several decisions made in the Madrid meeting, especially the one concerning the reciprocal removal of visa requirements." He said that he did not rule out the possibility of addressing the issue of a visit by President Carlos Menem to the United Kingdom soon, adding that "if this is the case, it should be taken as something normal between two nations with diplomatic relations."

Cavallo reported that on 2 April in Luxembourg, he, as representative of the Argentine Government, and the EEC president will sign an important standard trade cooperation agreement that "we have negotiated in record time."

Admiral Says Army is 'United and Professional'

PY2903175390 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Mar 90 p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Joint Chiefs-of-Staff head Admiral Emilio Osses reacted to warnings made by cashiered Lieutenat-Colonel Aldo Rico that a carapintada "manouevre" was about to be implemented by assuring that the Army was "united and professional" and contained no internal rebel factions.

The statement followed an announcement by Rico that he would be holding a one-man mass rally in the La Plata stadium on Monday [26 March] in which he is expected to unveil a project that he forewarned on Tuesday [27 March] would be "completely unprecedented."

But Osses, speaking at the inauguration of Brigadier-General Domingo Petrich who replaces General Martin Balza as deputy Chief-of-Staff, said that the carapintada problem came "from outside the Army" and called on the Armed Forces to forget past disturbances and "look ahead and serve the country and constitution."

Osses' call for harmony was backed by an article in La Prensa signed by a long list of citizens and politicians who declared "we offer our recognition of and solidarity with the Armed Forces and police force so that they can defend the nation."

Imprisoned retired Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, meanwhile, announced from his prison cell that he was preparing a letter to be read out next Monday [2 April] at a meeting held by the Federation of War Veterans commemorating the eight anniversary of the launch of the Malvinas war.

Seineldin who entered his third of 20 days behind bars for comments made against the Army, refused either to receive visits or to give any details on the letter's contents.

Political commentators, however, predicted that he would use the letter to make new attacks on the Armed Forces leadership.

In related news, United States Ambassador Terence Todman met with Defense Minister Humberto Romero to discuss a possible donation by the US government to the Argentine Armed Forces of "products not related to war."

No details were given of the talks but the US have this year already extended 20 million dollar of credit to be used for equipment renovation.

Foreign Ministry, Israeli Officials Meet

PY2903201190 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2242 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (DYN)—Alfredo Karim Yoma, the Foreign Ministry under secretary for special affairs, today met with Eliezer Palmor [name as received], Israeli Foreign Ministry director for Latin America [title as received]. They talked about bilateral relations between the two countries.

The meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry building. They also discussed the progress of the democratic processes in Latin America and in East Europe. Palmor also briefed Yoma on the current situation in the Middle East.

Following their meeting, the two officials agreed to emphasize the excellent relations between Argentina and Israel, and the need to strengthen all their aspects.

Bolivia

Brazil's Economic Program Affecting Border Areas

PY2903131890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Pando Department Prefect Jose Luis Padilla Mejia has said that the measures implemented by the Brazilian president have affected Cobija and Pando Departments. Padilla Mejia is in La Paz to meet with authorities on this situation and other problems that are affecting the region.

Padilla Mejia will try to find a solution to the critical situation affecting the region due to the economic measures adopted by Collor de Mello in Brazil. The cost of living in Cobija has increased between 100 and 150 percent as a result of these measures. [passage omitted]

[Begin Padilla Mejia recording] We are very concerned about the situation. This week we will report that the change of government in Brazil and the harsh measures implemented by President Collor de Mello have directly affected the people of Pando Department, with prices increasing by over 150 percent. The authorities and residents of Pando are very concerned about this situation.

We have to see if we can alleviate the situation by sending products from La Paz this week or whether we will have to wait until the critical situation of the Brazilian economy, which directly affects Pando, can be overcome. [end recording]

Padilla Mejia admitted that Pando depends directly on Brazil and that this is the reason why the Bolivian Government should take direct action. He said that it is extremely important for the Interior Ministry Migration Undersecretariat to implement a sovereign plan to definitely integrate Pando Department, the only way to exercise real sovereignty.

Minister Downplays Negative World Bank Report

PY2903121290 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The contents of a World Bank internal report on the Bolivian Government's handling of the country's economy have been revealed by a sector of the media. According to the report, although the government is continuing to monitor the economic program, some delays in implementing the policies have been observed. The report is signed by Catherine Marshall, the World Bank official in charge of Bolivian affairs.

In referring to this report, Information Minister Manfredo Kempff said that the government is not very concerned about the report because it is an internal issue. [passage indistinct]

Brazil

Economy Minister Announces Modifications

PY3003033390 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Report by Cristina Indio do Brasil]

[Text] The government has authorized the withdrawal of cruzados for medical treatment and for nonprofit hospitals. Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello has announced new modifications to the economic plan. The government has decided to authorize the conversion of new cruzados into cruzeiros for nonprofit hospitals, and for people who must pay for surgery or medical treatment. The government has also authorized withdrawal in cruzeiros from the FGTS [Unemployment Compensation Fund], and from the PIS/PASEP [Social Integration Program/Civil Servants Welfare Fund] in cases of dismissal without fair cause, dismantling of the enterprise, employee disability, and retirement. These measures will be adopted through an Economy Ministry Resolution.

Minister Cardoso also announced the creation of two special credit lines. One is for the payment of employees of small and medium farmers. To obtain the credit, which totals 3 million cruzeiros, the farmer must present his income tax registration number, his registration at the INCRA [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement], and a list of his employees. The farmers must go to the Bank of Brazil offices for the credit.

The other credit line is for the payment of urban workers. It totals 15 million cruzeiros. To obtain this credit, the businessmen may give his new cruzados that are deposited at the Central Bank or a certified and negotiable invoice deposited in the companies' accountings as collateral. The businessmen must also present the CGC [expansion unknown] and the list of employees.

Minister Cardoso believes these modifications will solve the problems of several sectors of society:

[Begin Cardoso recording] We believe that these measures will solve the problems of the FGTS, of the PIS/PASEP, of nonprofit hospitals, and of people who have to pay for surgery and medical treatment. We also believe that the creation of these credit lines to finance the payment of employees will solve a series of problems being faced by several sectors of society. [end recording]

The three million cruzeiro credit line for the payment of farm workers will be readjusted on the basis of the BTN [National Treasury Bond] plus 7 percent, and the credit line for the payment of urban workers will be readjusted on basis of the BTN plus 10 percent.

Collor Approves Credit Line for Farm Salaries

PY2903142690 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] President Fernando Collor has just approved the opening of a credit line so small and medium size farmers can cover their salary payrolls. This line of credit will be available as of 9 April at Bank of Brazil offices. This decision has solved the problem of farm workers' salaries.

Justice Minister Denies Intention To Resign

PY3003025090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral today denied that he is intending to resign his position to run in the October elections as a candidate for deputy.

[Begin Cabral recording] When I was invited by President Collor to become one of his ministers, I told him that I would not run in the elections, and I will keep my word. [end recording].

Minister Cabral also said he does not disagree with President Collor regarding Provisional Measures 153 [economic abuse crimes] and 156 [public finance crimes]. According to Bernardo Cabral, their relations are cordial and very loyal.

Agriculture Minister Resigns To Run for Governor

PY2903231190 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral has reported that Agriculture Minister Joaquim Roriz will leave his position to run for the Brasilia governorship. From today on, Minister Cabral will head both ministries. He believes the name of the next agriculture minister will be announced before the end of next week.

Joaquim Roriz already announced that he will run for the Brasilia governorship because he greatly appreciates the city.

[Begin Roriz recording] I have decided to become a candidate for the Brasilia governorship to please the city dwellers and to meet their request. I appreciate them very much and feel united with them. I am now a candidate, although I know the hardships that await me. I only think about winning the elections and about offering the victory to my president of the Republic, Fernando Collor de Mello. [end recording]

Joaquim Roriz has not decided which party he will join but has not discarded the possibility of running as a National Reconstruction Party candidate.

The agriculture minister position will be handed over at 1130 tomorrow at the Agriculture Ministry.

Economy Secretary Resigns for 'Personal Reasons'

PY2903123690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Zelia Cardoso de Melo's economy secretary has resigned. Marcos Caramuru, Economy Ministry social communications coordinator, noted that Marcelo Paiva Abreu said the decision was due to personal reasons and that Minister Cardoso has several people in mind to replace him.

Collor Names Rubens Vilar Interim Governor

PY2903122890 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello held a meeting today with Roraima State Governor-designate Rubens Vilar, who will occupy this post until the next governor is elected in October. Rubens Vilar asserted that the first thing he will do as governor of Roraima will be to settle the conflict between gold miners and Indians.

[Begin Vilar recording] We believe that, with federal organs, we must find a solution. We must organize the gold miners and definitely establish the limits of the Indian settlements. We need to implement a pacification policy between the gold miners and the Indians. [end recording]

His government's priority programs include the BR-174 highway, which will link Boa Vista with Manaus, and the Paredao hydroelectric plan. President Fernando Collor will submit his decision to name Rubens Vilar as Roraima governor to the Senate on 2 April.

Consolidation of Telecommunications Firms Planned

PY2903124090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The government is going to reduce the number of telecommunications companies. Instead of state-owned companies, the government will create seven regional enterprises. Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva said in Curitiba that the changes in the telecommunications system will start to be implemented within the next 15 days.

[Begin Silva recording] As a result of the transference of these companies to the state governments, some regional disputes have cropped up. These disputes do not help the

people who use these companies' services. We want to deliver better service instead of maintaining old structures that require modification. [end recording]

Businessmen Request Special Loans For Salaries

PY2903125490 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Businessmen from all over the country have met with President Fernando Collor to ask for a special credit line to pay salaries. Some 24 presidents of industrial federations complained to Collor that the banks are charging interest rates from 30 to 45 percent per month on loans taken out to pay salaries. President Collor listened to the problem but had no suggestions to make.

[Begin businessman Mario Amato recording] He said we will have to manage on our own and gave an example from his own business. He said his brother called and asked him what he should do, and he said: You find a solution yourself or go to the banks. [end recording]

The businessmen met at the National Industry Confederation this afternoon to talk to Minister Zelia Cardoso, but she sent a representative to meet them, her chief of staff, Sergio Nascimento. He noted that the government is studying ways to disburse loans of up to 3 million cruzeiros, with a seven percent interest rate, to be used to pay salaries. The businessmen asked for more and said they needed loans with special interest rates to cover at least half of their salary lists. [passage omitted]

* Finance Minister-Designate Profiled

90ET0159A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Mar 90 Economic Section p 7

[Article by Ana Maria Geia: "Vitoria Offers Loyalty and Competence"]

[Text] A little more than a year ago, her name was known only to the students and professors in the Faculty of Economics and Administration (FEA) at the University of Sao Paulo (USP). Even there, where she took her training as an economist, and in 1978 began her teaching career, she went almost unnoticed. As a student, she participated timidly as a student representative in the Economics Department Council. During its debates, she was always present, but she became known for a single statement: "I abstain." Nor was she brilliant in her role as a teacher, and she made no great impression on her students. They describe her as monotonous. But it took only 12 months for Zelia Maria Cardoso de Mello, a single woman of 36, to shine with brilliance as the adviser to President-elect Fernando Collor, prior to her confirmation yesterday as minister of economy.

In the Ministry of Economy, Zelia will have the combined firepower of three other ministries which have been eliminated—Planning, Finance, and a part of Industry and Trade. She is the first woman to be appointed to such an important post in the country, and the third to serve in a Brazilian cabinet. The first was Esther de Figueiredo Ferraz, who served as minister of education during the Figueiredo government, and the second was Dorothea Werneck, who held the labor post during Jose Sarney's administration.

Thus this native of the Jardins region in Sao Paulo, the granddaughter of Italians, who is known for her reticence about everything she does, has definitively left behind the semi-anonymous life she led until recently. She has now taken up the protagonist's role in the dramatic battle against inflation, which exceeds 70 percent per month at present. More than that, her duties will include putting the country back on the path of growth, in order to launch a new economic phase of prosperity.

It was as if she were picking her way through a minefield throughout the time she was advising Fernando Collor—first, when he was governor of Alagoas; then, when he was a candidate for the presidency; and finally, during his time as president-elect. Zelia has always been evasive whenever the conversation has moved toward her probable appointment to a ministerial post. "It is not the post which is the issue. I will be what the president decides, in the government or outside it," she has repeated a number of times.

With the evasive attitude characteristic of one who has been quick to learn the political game, she was in the process of becoming the most popular economist in the country. And she put behind her an unpleasant rivalry. After all, the battle for the post in the cloakrooms involved individuals with real weight, such as economist and Deputy Jose Serra, of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party]; Daniel Dantas, of Rio de Janeiro; and Professors Affonso Celso Pastore and Mario Henrique Simonsen, although none of these individuals admitted to wanting the post. "She has developed greatly in the recent period," the director of the Faculty of Economics at the USP, Roberto Macedo, says. "Her greatest asset in doing so has been her political loyalty," he adds.

This loyalty has in the end cost Zelia dearly. During the presidential campaign, when her links with former Maluf supporter Fernando Collor became publicly known, the attack was speedy and ferocious. The guns were trained on her from all sides—by her university colleagues (she was the only FEA professor to come out in support of Collor), other economists, and even her own family. "Be careful with what you're doing there," was the curt comment made by her cousin, Prof. Joao Manuel Cardoso de Mello, one of the stars in the late Dilson Funaro's team. The usually courteous Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, of the PSDB, was harsher. His unrestrained comment was: "Zelia is not one of the most brilliant economists."

The conflict was even greater toward the middle of last year, at the celebration of the marriage of one of Cruzado's relatives, Henri Philippe Reichstul, to the daughter of Senator Severo Gomes. In addition to her cousin, Joao Manuel, those present included a whole group of known economists who corralled Zelia and criticized her choice harshly. "However many arguments they put forth, they

were defeated in the end, and all she could do was to leave the celebration first," one of the economists who participated in the inquisition says today.

Zelia began to advise Collor while he was still governor of Alagoas, in her capacity as a partner in the ZLC consulting firm (Z for Zelia, L for Luiz Eduardo Alves de Assis, and C for Carlos Henrique Leal de Moraes). All three were members of a team of almost 30 economists, which she headed, and which was responsible for the economic plan of the new government.

She began her career as an economist by teaching at the USP, where she completed her training in 1975. She was accepted in March of 1978 as a teaching assistant in the Department of Economics. Two years later, she defended her doctoral thesis on "Sao Paulo 1845-1895. Changes in Wealth. A Contribution to the Study of the Transition From a Mercantile Economy to a Capitalist Export Economy." She was given a grade of 10, and was recommended "with distinction and commendation" by a select jury. In 1982, she traveled to England on contract with the Brazilian Embassy, and she returned in July of 1983 to take up a position as assistant doctoral professor, the third of five stages in her career at the USP.

She participated in the Montoro government as the director of the State of Sao Paulo Housing Development Company (CDH). But the high point in her career came when, from 1986 to 1987, she served in a department of the National Treasury Secretariat which was headed in that era by Andrea Calabi, one of her former professors and teaching colleagues. It was there that she met Fernando Collor. The then governor of Alagoas came, hat in hand, to present the economist with his plan for rolling over the state debt of $60 million.

After her stay in Brasilia, Zelia returned to the USP and the ZLC, but she remained faithful to her friendship with Collor. She is one of the few people who call him Fernando. The trust between the two grew, to the point that a little more than a month ago, the president-elect made the following statement without creating any difficulty. "I am the minister of economy." Controlling 35 million votes on 17 December, Collor always made it very clear that he wants to and can command. To the extent that the economic program which he will launch on the day of his inauguration, 15 March, is already known as the Collor Plan.

Possessed of a strong personality and viewed as an individual who has always fought hard for her ideas and interests, Zelia made this characteristic evident on one of the few occasions when her relations with Collor could publicly be seen to be shaky. It was during the week preceding the second round of the election. Influenced by his brother, Leopoldo, Collor chose to adopt an anticommunist tone during his television campaign, against the advice of the intellectuals on the committee headed by Deputy Renan Calheiros. Zelia was in the group who opposed this, and she threatened to resign, along with journalist Belisa Ribeiro, who became her close friend during the presidential campaign, and with whom she still regularly engages in leisure time activities. It was in the company of this friend that, during the end-of-the-year holidays in Punta del Este, Uruguay, Zelia met her sweetheart, cardiologist Carlos Scher, in whose Rio home she was a guest one weekend.

Although she stated a short time ago that she has a longstanding passion for classical music, Zelia has always been crazy about Roberto Carlos, the Bossa Nova, and the Beatles, as well. She spent all of her childhood and a part of her adolescence in a two-story house on Sampaio Vidal Street in Jardim Paulistano. At the age of 14, she joined her cousins at the home of her grandmother Adelaide to listen to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, and to revel in her passion for her "Zunguinha," as Roberto Carlos was called at the time. Zelia was always handsomely turned out in her beautifully cut garments of muslin, made by her own mother, Auzelia Cardoso de Mello, who sewed as a hobby for the children in the family. As a little girl, Zelia abandoned her elegance to scuffle with her only brother, Emiliano Leopoldo, who is now living abroad.

Then came the era of the Bossa Nova, and "Dorem"—the nickname her brother gave Zelia—began to pick out her first notes on the guitar. Within a short time, she became proficient in music, with the help of her friend Nilo, who had a musical group which used the two-story house on Sampaio Vidal to practice. In that era, she completed her secondary studies at the Eduardo Prado High School, and went on to the Intensive Study High School, one of the temples of education and leftist activism in Sao Paulo in the 1960s. She adopted the current student style, with full-cut Indian dresses, loose, tangled hair, and rawhide sandals, faithful to the fashion in the environment she had entered. But it was not long before she returned to her own style, one without exaggeration and with a certain reserve.

"She was even viewed as something of a fish out of water at Intensive Studies," recalls a young sweetheart of hers in that era who today occupies a high post in a large Sao Paulo bank. Alongside the many "pinkos" encouraged by the educational methods at Intensive Studies, Zelia was viewed as a conservative. To mock the political positions of her friends, she often imitated the person in the Auxiliary Investments Bank advertisement which was shown repeatedly on the television screen. She patted her pockets and reiterated the forbidden phrase: "The best thing about capitalism is being a capitalist." This was her favorite way of needling the leftists.

Very quickly, Zelia adapted to the leftist academic circles. While the fully dictatorial terms of Institutional Act No. 5 were in effect in 1968, her class at the school led the seizure of the premises to protest the quality of education. "She was only 15, but already she was proving herself to be extremely disputatious," remembers Suzana Sampaio, a former professor who was one of those exiled by the military regime. But it was not until the beginning of the 1970's, during a short pre-university course at the Cairu on Quirino de

Andrade Street, that she began timid militant activity in the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party]. This lasted no longer than her romantic involvement with the general history professor teaching the course, who encouraged her communist ideas.

Zelia was never a brilliant student, which was the description Prof. Suzana Sampaio gave of her classmate Persio Arida, one of the mentors of the Cruzado Plan, for example. Cold and formal with those she does not know well, but sweet, happy, and steadfast with her friends, she did not succeed in winning over the students in the economics program at the USP, where her time as a teacher left no sharp impression. "Attending her classes added nothing to reading the books," a third-year student, Bruno de Oliveira Fernandes, who had Zelia as a professor in 1988 and 1989, avers.

It is this competent and reserved woman with simple habits, about to take up residence in an apartment with one bedroom and a generous living room in the Itaim neighborhood, who will now take over at the Brazilian economic helm. Elegant and vain, she still wears her dark suits and little makeup. She prefers a light lipstick, in the same pastel tone as her nail polish. Her favorite animal is the horse, and her hobby, obviously, is riding. Fractures of the arm and too little time have forced her to participate less in this sport. She likes to swim and to cook, and in the realm of economics, her ideas favor administrative, tax, and property ownership reforms. She urges renegotiation of the foreign debt and a profound reorganization of the cabinet, followed by the return to the private sector of the enterprises the state took over in the past. She is among in that group which rejects orthodox policy, "because it is struggling for a more just society and modern capitalism."

Chile

RN Justifies Agreement in Support of Tax Accord

PY2903120690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The National Renewal [RN] has refuted criticism over its agreement with the government on tax reform and has asserted that this reform guarantees economic stability and provides a base for the fight on poverty. This was stated by Sergio Onofre Jarpa during a news conference held with legislators Evelyn Matthei and Sebastian Pineira.

Jarpa said that the attitudes of the people, criticizing the RN for its agreement with the government, reveal a true lack of political will to solve the most urgent social problems. Evelyn Matthei and Sebastian Pineira said the RN wants to solve the most urgent social problems as soon as possible with concrete measures, beyond partisan interests.

They said that this tax reform will allow for a broad social program that also includes increased pensions, family and housing subsidies, solutions to problems in the health and education sectors, the implementation of a housing program for the homeless and a training program designed especially for young people and women, and a national program to do away with pollution, thus preserving the health of the people, especially children.

Jarpa said that the agreement with the government is based on the proposals for solving the most urgent social problems promoted by his party during the electoral campaign. [passage omitted]

The RN leaders ended by stating that they are not really in favor of increasing taxes, but that the most needy sectors cannot wait any longer.

Ortega Speaks to Crowd at Stadium 25 March

PY2903233290 Santiago HOY in Spanish 25 Mar 90 pp 21, 22

[Report by Pedro Ramirez P.]

[Excerpts] At 1600 there was no more room in the Nataniel Stadium [location not further identified], even though the ceremony was scheduled for 1800 and Daniel Ortega was supposed to address the crowd at 1900. [passage omitted]

Ortega arrived just as someone was trying to remember whether Cecilia Magni—Commander Tamara, who died in Los Quenes—had been in Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

Father Jose Aldunate climbed up to the podium and greeted Ortega on behalf of all the Chilean people. After chastising the public for the verbal war that had been going on among rival factions that evening, Aldunate invited the Sandinist leader to join him on the podium. [passage omitted]

Ortega started off by praising the Popular Unity government and the way Salvador Allende resisted the coup. The crowd burst out in applause and chanted slogans directed against the Communist Party of Chile: "Let Volodia learn, Allende did not negotiate." Ortega continued to talk, indifferent to the chants.

He did not sound very convincing when he tried to explain why he had lost the elections—"because of the U.S. intervention and the contras." But he was a bit better when he explained why he believes the revolution has not failed: "The Front did not struggle to perpetuate itself in power....It struggled so that the Nicaraguans could choose. They did and we lost the government-....But a revolution that has given the people the chance to choose, that has achieved independence and national sovereignty, that has given the people education is not a revolution that has failed."

Ortega then added that the Constitution says that the revolution is irreversible and that the Sandinist Army

will be maintained. He asserted that the new government, unlike most Latin American governments, can rest assured that there will be no military coup.

"The Sandinist Army will never point its guns at the people; it will be in charge of defending national sovereignty and the Nicaraguan peoples' interests." [passage omitted]

Colombia

Airspace Violation by U.S. C-130 Reported

PA2903191890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 29 Mar (EFE)—A Hercules C-130 of the U.S. Air Force violated Colombian airspace yesterday and almost collided with two Colombian commercial airliners, the Civil Aeronautics Directorate reported today.

The Civil Aeronautics Directorate requested an explanation from the U.S. Air Force on the Hercules flight, which failed to contact the control tower in the area that it overflew in violation of Colombian regulations.

The U.S. Hercules overflew Narino Department in southern Colombia and Cauca Department near the Ecuadoran border and almost collided with two commercial passenger planes of the Colombian Intercontinental and SAM [expansion unknown] airlines.

Sources for the Civil Aeronautics Directorate and the Colombian Air Force said that the aircraft was only authorized to overfly the Pacific Ocean in search of a lost vessel.

This is the second time this year that a U.S. military aircraft has violated Colombian airspace and almost caused an accident.

Last February a Hercules C-130 overflew the Colombian Atlantic Coast and almost crashed with a commercial aircraft. The aircraft failed to respond to requests from control towers in the area and fighter planes that intercepted it and asked it to identify itself.

ELN Denies Execution of Leader Manuel Perez

PA2903171490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1548 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Bogota, 29 Mar (EFE)—A member of the Colombian guerrilla organization Army of National Liberation (ELN) categorically denied today that former Spanish Priest Manuel Perez, the group's top leader, had been executed by his comrades after being accused of sending $1 million to the Basque terrorist organization ETA [Basque Homeland and Liberty].

The report, attributed to a military source, was revealed in Colombia yesterday by the radio station Radio Cadena Nacional (RCN) and by television newscasts.

The ELN member denied the report today, describing it as a distortion of information and a tactic characteristic of the psychological war started by the Colombian Army against the most belligerent guerrilla organization in the country.

Likewise, the guerrilla source termed as absurd the fact that the Army is looking for the body of the former priest in a jungle region where it would be impossible to find it.

According to the military source which spread the information, the alleged search for the body is concentrated in the Perija mountain range. However, the Defense Ministry's official spokesman personally denied knowledge of this operation to EFE.

The official spokesman of the Defense Ministry told EFE yesterday that normal security and control operations are currently under way in that area of the country, and they are not specifically aimed at ascertaining the truth of the alleged execution.

Political sources close to the guerrilla organization also denied the report and termed the information as strange. [passage omitted]

'Extraditables' Communique Denies Accusations

PA2903134090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1223 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Communique issued by the Extraditables in Medellin on 28 March]

[Text] From the Extraditables to the Colombian people:

1. Once more the government has lied to the people by publicly denying the talks, negotiations, and dealings with our organization.

2. We strongly reject the statements given by Messrs. Santiago Londono and J. Mario Aristizabal telling the Colombian people that they acted on behalf of the Montoya family since we were not willing to accept proposals from a family in this conflict—because the Extraditables have parents, brothers, wives, and children, too.

3. Messrs. Londono and Aristizabal always said they were direct representatives of President Barco, who met with them on several occasions, and the best evidence of this is that the president personally invited them to address a Council of Ministers meeting that he convened.

4. In exchange for Mr. Montoya's release, the delivery of weapons, and the suspension of activities, we were offered a direct dialogue and negotiations. Due to our complaint about the belligerent statements given by the former minister of government, the president immediately offered flexible negotiations in a letter he sent to EL TIEMPO's editor in chief. Also, Mr. Maza Marquez, director general of the Administrative Department of

Security, talked at length with the media and said he felt no rancor and fervently hoped peace would soon be reached in Colombia.

5. While President Barco offered us flexible negotiations, he sent a group of official hired assassins who are members of the DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] and whose commander is responsible for the Bogota and Gomez Plata massacres and the kidnapping, torture, and disappearance of more than 40 of our comrades in Medellin.

6. Also, the minister of justice has arbitrarily interfered in our demands to the State Council to prevent its timely decisions.

7. The extraditions by state of siege decrees were always illegal because they did not abide by the regulations and rulings of the Supreme Court of Justice or by the people's rejection of the attacks on Colombian sovereignty.

8. We will not remain indifferent in the face of treason, torture, or assassination of our comrades.
[Signed] The Extraditables
[Dated 28 March 1990]

Government Issues State of Emergency in Envigado

PA2903193290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1733 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] As of today, Envigado Municipality will have military authorities similar to the ones currently operating in Uraba. This decision was adopted in a state of siege decree, which was issued and signed by the president and all his ministers yesterday. The military commander will be fully empowered to control public order, and he could even ask the governor to dismiss the mayor who has been elected by the people.

State of Siege Decree No. 678 states that the municipality of Envigado, Antioquia Department, has been declared a zone of emergency and military operations. The military commander of the zone will be appointed in a few hours. He will be able to adopt special measures to ensure public order, such as banning the carrying of weapons and the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, decreeing a curfew, regulating meetings and parades in public areas, and banning the traffic of people through specific areas of the town.

The Envigado military commander will be able to suspend—up to 60 days—all the municipal officials who do not cooperate with him, excluding the mayor, whose suspension or dismissal he will be able to propose to the governor of Antioquia Department. Based on similar powers bestowed on the military commander of Uraba, the military commander in Envigado will also have command of the prison authorities and will be able to carry out the arrests ordered by justice officials.

This means that the Envigado military commander can, at any time, order the arrest of drug traffickers like Pablo Escobar, who is frequently seen in the Envigado area. In addition, the military commander will be able to issue emergency municipal administrative instructions, and he will be in command of the police, temporarily replacing the mayor who was elected by the people.

[Begin Envigado mayor recording] I do not think it was necessary to issue a presidential state of siege decree declaring Envigado a zone of emergency. Although it is true there have been events that have tarnished the municipality's image at the national level, it is also true that the government has stated that the judges of the Republic are the people in charge of ruling on responsibilities, not only their own but also of any other citizen in the country. Therefore, we believe it was not necessary to declare Envigado a zone of emergency because public order has not been disrupted in a manner which merits this. We believe that there are other zones of the country which certainly require it. [end recording]

Given the reports that Envigado Municipality's Department of Security and Control is at the service of Medellin Cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar, the government has also issued another state of siege decree, banning the creation of any new paramilitary corps like the one in Envigado. Effective today, the organizations will be under the direct control of the National Police.

Many assassinations occurring in Envigado are perpetrated by the so-called Department of Security and Control. The report was issued approximately one and one-half months ago and resulted in the issuing of Decree 677, aimed at exerting control over organizations like the Envigado Department of Security and Control, which are accused of having links to drug traffickers and hired assassins.

Therefore, these organizations will now be under the direct control of the National Police, and the National Police director will be in charge of their personnel, weapons, equipment, and other technical resources. Those working for the local paramilitary groups will be subject to the existing discipline for public officials and will not exclude legal proceedings for actions they may have carried out before the decree was issued.

The state of siege decree signed by the president and all his ministers bans the creation of new organizations like the ones existing in Copacabana, Envigado, or Medellin, and it suspends the appointment of new personnel. Effective today, local police corps will only be able to carry out information and cooperation functions to support the authorities' legal and precautionary measures.

Gomez Denies Force Slackening in Drug Fight

PA3003023290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1755 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] National Police Director General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla refused to explain to the press today contacts between top government officials and Medellin Cartel spokesmen. He said that his institution has not

been ordered to lower its guard in the struggle against drug trafficking. Victor Callostola files this report:

[Begin recording] [Gomez] I can only underscore the fact that the national police force is fulfilling its duties, because, among other reasons, we have laws and such laws have not been repealed. Therefore, we are obliged to comply with them, and we are doing just that.

[Callostola] But while the police are doing their work, the government is contacting drug trafficking spokesmen.

[Gomez] I repeat, government spokesmen will give an explanation in due time. The national police force has never been asked to stop fulfilling its duties, and we are doing just that. I want to underscore this fact.

[Callostola] As for contacts with drug traffickers to obtain the release of the presidency minister's son, the general said:

[Gomez] I do not know whether certain people, on a personal basis and for humanitarian reasons, have made efforts for the release of those people. I repeat, the Council's official spokesman will explain this.

I want to emphasize the fact, because I need to emphasize it, that the national police have never received orders from the government—and by government I mean the president and the defense minister—to stop fulfilling their duties, which we have continued doing.

[Callostola] Why did former Government Minister Lemos make the statements he did?

[Gomez] Please ask former Minister Lemos.

[Callostola] The justice minister said this morning on Radio Cadena Nacional that the National Council met with the president and negotiated the release of [words indistinct].

[Gomez] It is impossible that the justice minister said that. You should verify that information. [end recording]

'Unprecedented' Crisis in UP Over Resignations

PA3003025990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 29 Mar (EFE)— Today the reformist [aperturista] sector of the leftist Patriotic Union (UP) resigned from the party's national coordinating board, prompting an unprecedented crisis in its five years of political life.

During the second day of its plenum, twelve of its 20 members, including UP President Diego Montana Cuellar, resigned from the national coordinating board, which also includes activists of the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC).

According to sources close to the UP, the reformist faction resigned from the coordinating board because it believes that Colombia needs a broad social democratic movement, such as that advocated by UP presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa, who was assassinated on 22 March.

The leftist sources consulted by EFE indicated today that the possibility of participating in the 27 May presidential elections, at least with a joint UP and PCC candidate, is growing more distant.

While the UP's reformist faction rejects the armed path as a means to achieve power, the sector known as the radicals, in other words, the eight members who did not resign from the coordinating board, agree on using different forms of struggle, including guerrilla attacks. These eight members belong to the PCC.

In addition to Montana, leaders Angelino Garzon, Guillermo Banguero, Alberto Rojas Puyo, Julio Santana, and Luis Emiro Valencia were among those who resigned.

At the same time, 12 members of the national committee, another section of the party, also resigned. They are also from the reformist faction.

The friction with the reformists, or perestroyka supporters, began on 28 March, the first day of the plenum sessions, when Angelino Garzon charged that the PCC had intercepted Jaramillo Ossa's letters.

Another reason for the division within the Colombian left were the less than favorable results of the 11 March legislative and municipal elections, when the UP and the PCC lost several seats in the Colombian Congress.

Up to 22 March, the day when Jaramillo was assassinated, he was the single presidential candidate of the UP and the PCC, but after his death, both parties agreed to hold a plenum to decide whether they will participate in the elections.

* Commentary on Outcome of Cartagena Summit

90ET0146B Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Feb 90 p 4A

[Article by Enrique Santos Calderon]

[Text] What was most obvious in Cartagena was the contentment expressed by everyone—the smiles, the embraces, the relaxed parade in front of a thousand cameras, with the imposing scene of the bay in the background. Sun, breeze, sea, and air at the summit.

All four of these things were good, and there was discussion on a one-to-one basis. Each individual took home his share of the popularity and publicity. That is what summit meetings are for. Bush deserves the greatest credit, according to CBS News, for going to Colombia, bearing up throughout the day, and departing with a smile. Rambo Bush completed his heroic trip to the war front, and this will do him no damage in public opinion polls.

The most commendable thing about Alan Garcia, apart from his appealing loquacity and the clarity of his ideas

(which did not prevent him from ruining Peru, in the end) was that he finally succeeded in embracing Bush. And, of course, there were the passages he quoted from Proust. Paz Zamora deserves credit for having extracted the greatest advantage from the Cartagena meeting, flirting with danger en route to Pacos. The truth is that he knew what he was doing, for he was in La Heroica during his time as a political refugee of the Bolivian MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] in the 1970s.

Barco, the host, also did well. I was impressed by his confidence and the way in which he struggled with the journalists at the beginning (later, at the press conference, he slipped up, but one cannot expect miracles, after all). The president felt so confident that, displaying full bilingual ability, he gave his excellent speech of welcome twice. Twice.

The fact that it was held in the most beautiful city in the Caribbean contributed to the success of the summit meeting. The visitors were caught up in its bewitching atmosphere of seduction. It made it possible for Bush to end up embracing Alan Garcia; it enabled Paz Zamora to throw a kiss from the rostrum; and it led Barco to seek out journalists in order to make impeccably drafted statements to them.

And in the midst of all of this, there was the skeptical equanimity of the people of Cartagena. This uncomplicated and perspicacious people, accustomed to having their city outshine the others, and fully immunized against summit meetings, conventions, and illustrious visitors, did not seem much moved.

This was perhaps a convention which was a little more bothersome than the others, but as a veteran seller of lottery tickets leaning against the wall said: "Anything to do with tourism is okay." And if to some extent it contributed to tourism, or to changing the image of this country, if the thousands of newspapermen managed to reflect where they were, this would have justified the meeting in our eyes.

But let us set aside the folklore aspect, the tourism, and the presidential camaraderie in the tropics and move on to more serious matters. What was the outcome of this summit, on balance? First of all, there should no longer be any doubt anywhere in the world about the sacrifice made and the commitment assumed by Colombia in the war against drugs. If anyone thought that there were no competent and motivated forces here to confront the drug trade, the press conference held by General Maza Marquez and Gen Gomez Padilla put an end to any uncertainty in this connection.

The clear emphasis on the economic dimension of the problem and the change in the attitude of the United States on this point, as well as its recognition that demand dictates supply, represent positive advances. Despite its ambiguities and lack of precision, the Cartagena Declaration is the first document to set forth a joint and integral international strategy involving both the producers and the major consumer. And it is the first to speak of the need to control the flow of arms, chemical supplies, and laundered dollars.

All of this is important, although there is some distance between word and deed. We will have to wait and see what happens with the promises of aid ($2.2 billion to Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia in the next 5 years) and the promises made by Bush to contribute to the economic revitalization of these countries (and to aid Colombia in the flower and coffee sectors).

Basically, Bush did not let anyone take anything from him. He handed over postdated checks which will have to be collected by the successors to Virgilio Barco and Alan Garcia. But it was made clear that without a strategy on the part of the United States which will strengthen the legitimate economies of the Andean nations, no repression of the traffic in drugs will do any good.

Perhaps the most polemic aspect of the summit meeting was the emphatic denial by Barco that he had talked about negotiations with the drug traffickers. Perhaps he exaggerated, because he never mentioned that word. The ambiguity was created by earlier letters and statements of his in which he intimated there might be a change of attitude (more "flexible") if "The Extraditables" were to keep all their promises.

I do not see anything scandalous or unusual in that position. If, in fact, they surrender everything and if they surrender themselves, what more could be asked? Wars end when the enemy surrenders. And if Bush becomes irritated, Barco might remind him of the famous statement made by John F. Kennedy: "Never negotiate out of fear, but never fear to negotiate."

* Ecopetrol To Expand New Oil Exploration

90ET0146C Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
15 Feb 90 p 4C

[Article by EL TIEMPO editor Victor Chaves R.: "Oil Reserves Down"]

[Text] The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) will have to increase its rate of exploitation of new deposits, for otherwise, the country will have to import crude oil long before the date initially planned (i.e., the middle of this decade).

The results in 1989 were discouraging. It was hoped that new reserves amounting to a total of about 100 million barrels would be found, but instead the volume located came to only 23.9 million. In 1987, 54.4 million barrels were found, and in 1988, 82.9 million.

Moreover, when a review of the existing reserves at the productive wells was made, an unfavorable disparity of some 200 million barrels was established. In the fields being exploited by the multinational company Hocol in the department of Huila alone, there had been an overestimate of more than 100 million barrels.

Thus the crude oil reserve total declined to 1.924 billion barrels, of which 591 million are to be exploited directly by Ecopetrol, 1.288 billion by associated companies, and 99 million through the concession system.

The ratio of success in the work of prospecting last year was 55 percent for the state oil company, and 25 percent for the associated companies.

At the present time, 36 percent of the reserves are in the central zone of the country, 16 percent are in the southern area, 11 percent are in the northern region, and 37 percent are in the zone known as Bogota.

Of all the deposits, 47 percent are located in zones in which production has already entered into a phase of declining production, which means that the possibility of increase there is minimal.

At the first session of the seminar on oil policy sponsored by the Javerian University and the multinational company Occidental of Colombia, the president of Ecopetrol, Andres Restrepo Londono, admitted that the prospects for the sector are not very good. This view is based on last year's results and the multinational companies' fear of investing in Colombia, which in turn is due to the problems of lack of security and the constant challenges from the trade unions and radical political parties.

Restrepo minimized the high profit figures for last year (about 120 billion pesos), saying that this figure does not really represent the last fiscal period, since it includes the 1988 accounting balances eventually determined by the Office of the Controller General of the Republic.

Despite the government's plan to accelerate exploitation of new deposits, the area contracted out to private enterprises with this in mind has dropped by more than 5 million hectares, from 12 to 7 million, in the period of 1 year.

After an analysis of the new circumstances, the Ecopetrol board of directors decided last week to revise its exploitation policy for the coming years, during which period deposits containing another 250 million barrels must be located. This will require an investment of $537 million (about 230 billion pesos at today's exchange rate).

The new working methods Ecopetrol is using are designed to provide the country with the technical capacity and other elements needed to be able to interpret the maps showing hydrocarbon potential. In order to avoid the danger of discrepancies in the future, it was decided to draft annual work plans, rather than plans covering a longer period, which have been used traditionally.

In addition, arrangements with expert firms abroad will be negotiated to supplement the work of Ecopetrol in the realm of seismic interpretation. The multinational companies operating in the country have carried forward projects in this realm involving more than 5,000 km of seismic studies.

For the first phase of the work, 44 basic projects were delineated, and work has already been done in some 13 sectors. However, if the results are not positive, the projects will be expanded to a total of 66.

With this approach, Ecopetrol is prepared to do the necessary drilling (for this year, the number of drillings should be at least 80) until new findings offset the production decline at the Cano Limon field. It is hoped that this can be achieved by the second half of this decade.

[Box, p 4C] Gas Prospects Even Worse

If the results of crude oil exploration in 1989 were not good, the results obtained in the search for new natural gas reserves were even worse. Not a single cubic foot was located in 1989. This situation has forced the government to alter its plans for supplying the majority of the homes in the central and northern parts of the country with natural gas service before the end of this decade.

In 1989, it was hoped that some 35 billion cubic feet of this fuel would be found, in view of the fact that 17.2 billion cubic feet had been located in 1987, and in 1988, 27 billion cubic feet.

The multinational Texas company had taken on a commitment to prospect the Guajira deposits, but toward the end of the preceding year, it reported the total failure of its efforts.

On the other hand, because of the repairs which had to be made at the refinery in Cartagena, it became necessary to import some 5 million gallons of liquified propane gas to meet the demand on the Atlantic Coast for 2 months.

In Cartagena, Santa Marta, and Barrinquilla, some 200,000 families use propane for cooking.

The suspension of work at the refinery in Cartagena also meant the failure to use some 10,000 barrels a day of heavy crude oil (which is the fuel used by the country for domestic consumption, given the impossibility of exporting it).

* Modernization of Leather Industry Encouraged

90ET0146A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
19 Feb 90 p 2B

[Text] The leather industry in Colombia has a long road ahead of it. Its main opportunity for growth lies in foreign markets. However, if it is to export, it must eliminate 16 negative factors.

This was the main conclusion of a study which the World Bank commissioned the U.S. firm Kurt Salomon Associates to carry out. It involved drafting a diagnosis of the tanning, manufacturing, and footwear sectors of the Colombian leather industry.

The study shows that the leather industry has barely completed the initial stage of development within its

five-phase plan. This means that it is lagging 25 years behind the leading footwear producers in countries such as Taiwan and Korea.

In theory, the initial stage in the development of an industry involves operations by a few large manufacturers and many small ones. Therefore such an industry can only meet the domestic market demand, and is characterized by limited efficiency and cheap manpower.

The sector has other shortcomings, leading among which are the underuse of installed capacity, at a level of between 40 and 50 percent. This is the result of the limited domestic demand and slow growth due to the limited purchasing power of the citizens of Colombia.

The Sole Option

If there is no domestic demand, it is necessary to look to other markets. Thus the study concludes that the most viable prospect for moving on to the next phase of growth is to be found in exports.

The problem is that the leather industries have four comparative advantages on the international market, as compared to 16 disadvantages.

The advantages are limited to the short distance between our ports and the United States, which is Colombia's main market; low production costs; the vertical integration of domestic industry; and the design capacity of the manufacturing firms.

As compared to these minimal advantages, we have a lack of export experience, an inadequate institutional policy, domestic hides of poor quality, a country with a poor image, technical limitations due to the low level of technology, a lack of incentives, inefficient transportation, high freight costs, and a lack of advertising, among other factors.

These limitations, according to the report by the Kurt Salomon firm, could be transformed into advantages with a proper export policy.

The report also says that the geographic location of Colombia in relation to the United States has not been properly exploited. Colombia is the closest of the countries which supply the U.S. market with leather products and footwear.

But there are other advantages. The visible consumption of hides, footwear, and manufactured leather products in the United States comes to a total of $19.64 million. Of this, 59.5 percent, or $11.68 million, represents imports, and the increase in consumption averages 37 percent per year.

In general, the U.S. market in this sector is open, imposes no restrictions or quotas, and has relatively low import duties and lower quality requirements than those on the European and Japanese markets.

An Open Policy

The report recommends an open approach, and above all, maintains that "the industry cannot function in a protected market which is perpetuating its inefficiencies and is condemning the sector to an inability to compete on the international market."

The World Bank believes that opening up the domestic market should be a gradual process, to avoid trauma for the large number of industries which are not yet prepared to compete with the world leaders in this sector. This process would entail the reorganization of foreign trade, the development of a good transportation infrastructure, the transfer of technology, and a strategy which promotes domestic investment in the sector and the export of products to the United States.

Conversion of the sector must begin with the slaughterhouses. The most important thing is to improve skinning techniques with a view to the better use of animal hides. This requires the introduction of new technologies into the processes.

Where tanning is concerned, the bank suggests two alternatives. One is optimization of the chemical processes required for the treatment of hides, with investments in new technology estimated at $16 million for the entire sector. The other alternative is to import leather.

The footwear industry needs to standardize sizes for Colombians on the basis of an anthropomorphic study of the foot. Training programs for employees and heavy investment in technology transfer are recommended. The investment would come to 1.5 billion pesos for the large factories, and 750 million for the small ones.

Paraguay

Quayle Reportedly Wanted To Meet Laino

PY2903153990 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Mar 90 p 7

[From the "Whispering" column]

[Text] It is said that Quayle wanted to talk with Laino [Authentic Radical Liberal Party president] privately and that, since Laino was invited by Aylwin—and not by the national government—to travel to Chile, there was no way for the opposition leader to be back in time to meet Quayle. The U.S. Embassy reportedly asked the Rodriguez Government to take charge of Laino on the way back, but Rodriguez' entourage responded that they were unable to contact him in Santiago.

Simply piqued, the "Yankees" are reportedly reviewing a way to make amends to Laino through a direct contact with Washington, which could take place over the next few days.

Debt to Brazil Reportedly Reduced by Half

PY2903124790 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Mar 90 p 13

[Excerpts] A few days ago Paraguay reduced its debt to Brazil to $240 million by purchasing debt certificates. Thus, with $52 million in cash, Paraguay recovered $195 million worth of its debt to Brazil, corresponding to the principal.

Paraguayan Central Bank (BCP) President Crispiniano Sandoval has reported that the total debt paid is $236.6 million, $195 million as payment of the principal, and the rest as interest payment. He added that with Brazil, so far, some $200 million of the debt has been completely paid through the exchange of Brazilian debt certificates, acquired on the secondary market. This amount has yielded some $52.6 million in cash for the country. [passage omitted]

The original amount of the debt was $435,564,814 which was reduced to $200 million by payments made through the exchange of Brazilian and Paraguayan debt certificates.

Moreover, despite the fact that our country did not have to pay interest for five years after the agreement was signed, the BCP has already paid it, as reported by Sandoval himself.

Communist Party President Dies in Argentina

PY2903215290 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Mar 90 p 4

[Text] Julio Rojas, the president of the Communist Party of Paraguay (PCP), died on 13 March in Buenos Aires (Argentina) according to a communique released by the PCP Central Committee.

Rojas joined the party at the end of the Chaco War and because of his work in defense of the basic interests of the working class, peasants, intellectuals, and the progressive sectors he became the secretary general of the party, and later the president.

The communique says that Rojas and Antonio Maidana (current PCP leader), among others, were the leaders of the teachers union that headed the 1942 strike.

The communique concludes by saying that "Rojas was an example of revolutionary firmness because despite the persecutions, the torture, the banishment, and the inhumane 21-year imprisonment in the jails of dictator Alfredo Stroessner, he never lost faith in the cause of democracy, peace, national liberation, and socialism to the victory of which he dedicated his life."

Peru

Shining Path 'Armed Stoppage' Fails in Lima

PY2903191690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1505 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE)—The Peruvian Shining Path terrorist group has failed in its attempt to paralyze Lima with an "armed stoppage" because 90 percent of the workers went to work despite a transportation shortage.

The only ones who observed the "armed stoppage" (strike under death threat) en masse yesterday were the private bus owners, the "microbus owners," who handle most of Lima's transportation and whose leaders pointed out that they did not have enough security guarantees. The private bus owners have also threatened to do the same thing on 8 April 1990, election day in Peru. The terrorists are trying to force a boycott of these elections in any possible way.

The workers, however, ignored the Shining Path's call. In view of the serious socioeconomic crisis plaguing the country, workers cannot afford to waste two days of salary, even including Sunday, which can be deducted if they do not work the entire week.

Political commentators from several Lima newspapers today lauded the conduct of Lima's residents. A front-page headline in the newspaper PAGINA LIBRE today read: "Terror Defeated."

Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who also praised the workers' decision to go to their jobs, pointed out that "terrorism will be buried" on 8 April through the ballot box. In fact, had it not been for the bus owners stoppage, the Shining Path "strike" would have gone unnoticed, as was the case with two other Shining Path-sponsored "strikes" that failed in 1989.

Three bombings took place last night in Lima. A bank and a store sustained minor damage, while the other bomb exploded near a police station.

According to the police, 48 alleged terrorists were detained in Lima yesterday, and today the police are continuing to patrol in armored vehicles to control any terrorist attack. Nevertheless, in the town of Huacho, 133 km north of Lima, Shining Path terrorists set fire to a fish cannery, blew up antennas of five different radio stations, and threw explosives at a police station.

In Ancash Department, in northern Peru, Shining Path terrorists yesterday entered the small town of Aija and attacked the mayor's office, the offices of the justice of the peace, and two state agency offices, causing serious property damage but no casualties.

Last night in Cusco, 1,000 km southeast of Lima, terrorists threw explosives at the Cusco courthouse, without major consequences.

Foreign Minister on Panama, Castro's Isolation

PA3003032790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0548 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Mar (AFP)—Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox, here on 27 March, ruled out the possibility that Panama will rejoin the Latin American Group of Eight (G-8, Group of Rio).

"I think that the case of Panama was definitely resolved during the meeting of the Group of Rio in Ica, Peru, in September 1989. At that meeting, Panama was expelled from the group," said Larco Cox. The Peruvian foreign minister arrived in Mexico City to meet with the other foreign ministers of the Group of Eight to analyze relations with Europe and the group's upcoming presidential summit.

However, the Peruvian foreign minister left open the possibility that the presidents who form the Group of Rio (formed in 1986 by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama—currently suspended—Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela) may change their minds about Panama.

Larco Cox added that "in the Group of Rio, we make decisions by agreement and consultation and the main activity of the group—which is political—is carried out by the presidents."

Larco Cox said that the foreign ministers will discuss on 29 and 30 April relations between countries that form the Group of Eight and Europe, prior to the upcoming meetings that they will hold with their counterparts of the European Economic Community in Dublin, and the meeting with foreign ministers from East Europe in Budapest, both scheduled for April.

The Peruvian foreign minister said that "it is not true that the international financial organizations have made the decision to support East Europe," after democratic and political changes took place in East Europe, leaving underdeveloped countries aside. He added that "this possibility prompted this meeting."

When asked his opinion about the isolation of Cuban leader Fidel Castro given the democratization processes in Latin America, the Peruvian foreign minister said that this is a problem that only concerns the Cubans.

He concluded: "We do not intervene in sovereignty matters. Until proven otherwise, Fidel Castro remains a revolutionary leader who has led the way for many people of the Americas."

Fredemo Leader Comments on Front's Economic Plan

PY2903235590 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Mar 90 p A5

[Text] Manuel Moreyra Loredo, a member of the economic team of Fredemo [Democratic Front], reiterated yesterday that this organization is preparing a carefully reviewed stabilization policy to last from six to 12 months. He added that it will be a coherent and consistent policy aimed at reducing inflation to under 10 percent annually. He said: "We are sure we can do it. We can do what other countries have done and what Peru was able to do until 1974; have a healthy currency and a stable economy."

He explained that the stabilization policy to be implemented by Fredemo, if it becomes the government, will be coherent because all the measures will aim at the same target. It will be consistent because its goal will remain unchanged for enough time to reduce inflation to less than 10 percent monthly [as published].

He added that since July 1985 prices have increased more than 1.5 million percent—that is, an average of 15,000 times—while salaries dropped to less than half of their purchasing power.

He said that high prices and low salaries will not exist, because inflation will not go over 10 percent a year. He also indicated that along with the stabilization plan, Fredemo will implement a very large social support system in the first year of its administration, and after that, people will be able to reap the benefits of the program because stability will bring back growth, which in turn will improve the standard of living of Peruvians.

Garcia Justifies Telephone Company Privatization

PY3003034890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Today President Alan Garcia met with representatives for the Peruvian Telephone Company consumers, who will make up the general council of the company's shareholders. These representatives were elected through a public lottery.

President Garcia pointed out the importance of transferring management to the consumers. He said the management is thus democratized and that this is not a privatization process that will put the company in the hands of a monopoly. After announcing that the government will facilitate the purchase of equipment by the company through decrees, he emphasized that control of the Peruvian Institute of Social Security can be similarly transferred to its members. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Bolivia's Paz Discusses Army, Drugs, Economy

PY2903121790 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 8 Mar 90 p 32

[Interview with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora by unidentified reporter at the Victoria Plaza Hotel in Montevideo on 1 March]

[Excerpts] [BUSQUEDA] What role do the Armed Forces play in that democratic revolution?

[Paz] Well, democracy must redefine the Armed Forces' role.

[BUSQUEDA] But are the Armed Forces willing to redefine their role?

[Paz] Yes, the Bolivian Armed Forces are willing to do so. I would say this is the institution that has behaved best in this democratic transition. The Armed Forces have given us no cause for concern since the last dictator was overthrown. However, their role must be redefined, because in most of our constitutions the Armed Forces are defined with an ideologically liberal criteria appropriate to the past century or the beginning of this century. The problem is that the democratic revolution is changing the very concept of the Armed Forces and their role in our society, no longer regarded as a stagnate body nor as a hegemony. The Armed Forces have their raison d'etre, but within a new context, within a new society.

[BUSQUEDA] It seems the Bolivian economy is having some difficulties getting off the ground. The GDP hardly grew during the past years and very little last year. What prospects do the Bolivian economy have? Will you continue to use the same policies?

[Paz] We have made a great effort to stabilize our economy but we must continue with our plans, otherwise things might get worse. The stabilization process is a phase that must be completed soon to be able to achieve economic growth and social development. For this we must maintain a strict stabilization policy, because controlling the fiscal deficit is an every day task that can get out of hand with the slightest oversight. One must say no to everything in order to be able to stabilize the economy. A stubborn president who says no to expenditures, locks himself in his home, and lets the police use their truncheons outside if necessary.

This is exactly what stabilization is about. Fortunately, I did not have to do this. But growing is even more complicated; one needs imagination for this. One needs to sterilize in order to stabilize. Growth means fertility, but one needs a president who will develop the country, it is more difficult...

[BUSQUEDA] What are the prospects for the Bolivian economy?

[Paz] The prospects are slow but good. We must invest in the economic growth process to be able to reap the fruit in a few years time. One must have a certain sense of history and continuity. But Bolivian possibilities are real; this year we have made a great effort in the public investment and international cooperation sectors and hope that private, national, and foreign investments make their contributions. Among other things, we must also privatize the private enterprises in Bolivia, not only to make them more efficient but because Bolivian private enterprises have grown used to living off of the state. They are always waiting for the government to obtain foreign credits that they will handle. We want private enterprise to survive by itself, to invest and produce. [passage omitted]

[BUSQUEDA] Are there better chances of reaching an agreement with Chile now that Patricio Aylwin is president?

[Paz] The prospects are extremely better. In the first place, because the two countries are ruled by democracies and, in the second place, because it seems the new Chilean Government will adopt a different attitude. I hope we are not wrong. Let us hope that Chilean sectors will not exert pressure on the new Chilean Government, thus preventing it from acting, because the attitude does exist.

[BUSQUEDA] Does this mean that Bolivia will not demand territory but only an outlet to the sea?

[Paz] No. It means many things. That we must modernize ourselves to solve a problem; problems in the past were solved at gunpoint, but the next century is the century of communications, technology, integration, and democracy. The problem must be focused on within this context. If the iron curtain is being demolished then we must be able to solve a problem of this nature. Moreover, I think it is the great national and international moment to tackle the issue. [passage omitted]

[BUSQUEDA] Talking about drug trafficking, how serious a problem is this in Bolivia and how are you tackling it? We understand you have a different proposal for this problem.

[Paz] We have made a proposal with sound and serious economic grounding which entails replacing coca with development.

In the drug trafficking circuit there are consumer countries that must prevent consumption; countries that market or are responsible for the added value to coca where the mafia operates and where drug trafficking should be repressed, and countries such as Bolivia where the problem is quite simple: unemployed people grow coca, which is a traditional crop, and by no means can be considered criminal. There is also the coca surplus production that is not used for traditional consumption, but used by drug traffickers.

Therefore, the proposal is to replace the coca (surplus) economy with an alternate economy, because coca production is linked to the rest of our economy, it cannot just be separated, because this would mean affecting the peasants' income, the national income, the balance of payments, and our exchange policy. To be able to carry out this plan we need the urgent support of the international community to help maintain the balance of all that will be affected by this plan. We would then need medium-term aid which would entail great investments. We are not asking for subsidy, we just want help to establish an efficient and competitive economy. At the same time the rest of the countries involved in the drug

trafficking circuit will have to do their share. This is the theory proposed by Bolivia at the Cartagena meeting and which was approved.

The lesson learned in our struggle against hyperinflation was of great help in drawing up this theory. I said to President Bush: "President, had Bolivia continued to fight hyperinflation by maintaining that the state had to simply arrest all speculators, we would never have curbed hyperinflation. We needed to tackle the problem from an economic point of view. Likewise, if you argue that drug trafficking can be eliminated by merely arresting drug traffickers, there will always be another drug trafficker and we would not be giving a rational answer to the economy generated by this problem. We would be back at square one."

[BUSQUEDA] In view of the problems that the drug trafficking mafias are having in Colombia, due you think there is any chance they will go to another country such as Peru or Bolivia?

[Paz] There is a chance that Bolivia, that is a mere producer country, will start marketing drugs. But the best way to avoid the mafias from coming to Bolivia is by solving the problem of the surplus coca producers, because this would be the social grounds on which the mafia would operate. Fortunately in Bolivia, coca production is still not linked to terrorism or the guerrillas as is the case in Peru and Colombia. This is the time to get rid of surplus coca production and stop the mafia which would lead to outbreaks of violence.

[BUSQUEDA] What chances are there that the Cartagena Agreement be implemented?

[Paz] Well, it is up to us. During the first six months we will hold a meeting to assess the situation and within six months time we will try to implement the new mechanisms that will demand great effort.

Suriname

Government Order Led to Brunswijk's Release

FL2903160090 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Surinamese authorities have released rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk after receiving a written order from the government. The arrest of the rebel leader had endangered the peace process and has raised tensions between the Surinamese government and the armed forces. Police had refused a verbal request for Mr. Brunswijk's release on Tuesday [27 March], leading to fears of a confrontation between the civilian authorities and security forces. There were reports that military commander Desi Bouterse is growing impatient with government efforts to resolve the civil war with the rebels.

Talks are going on between the two sides in the capitol, but the guerillas were arrested in Paramaribo on Monday night [26 March] on charges of cocaine trafficking. Those charges were linked to a plane that landed in rebel controlled territory last week due to bad weather. The reports say the plane was carrying a ton of raw coca paste which is used in the manufacture of cocaine. Rebels admit seizing the plane but deny any involvement in drug trafficking.

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Visits

FL2903215090 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A Soviet parliamentary delegation which arrived in Suriname Tuesday [27 March], yesterday visited the banana company (?Aricava). The five-man strong delegation also met with the council of trade union federations in Suriname [words indistinct] . The visit of the Soviet parliamentary delegation is aimed at strengthening relations between Surinamese and Soviet parliamentarians and to exchange views with their Surinamese counterparts on international questions.

The Soviet parliamentarians have yesterday paid courtesy calls on President Ramsewak Shankar and some ministers. To mark the visit, the national assembly here held an informal sitting. The Soviet parliamentary delegation is headed by (Anatoly Kolin), vice chairman of the Committee for Finance and Planning in the Soviet parliament. A reception will be held tonight in honor of the visiting Soviet parliamentarians at the embassy of the Soviet Union in Paramaribo. The Soviet parliamentary delegation leaves Suriname tomorrow.